

SPAWN

Dykes To Watch Out For

for Helen Fontana Bechdel

Acknowledgments

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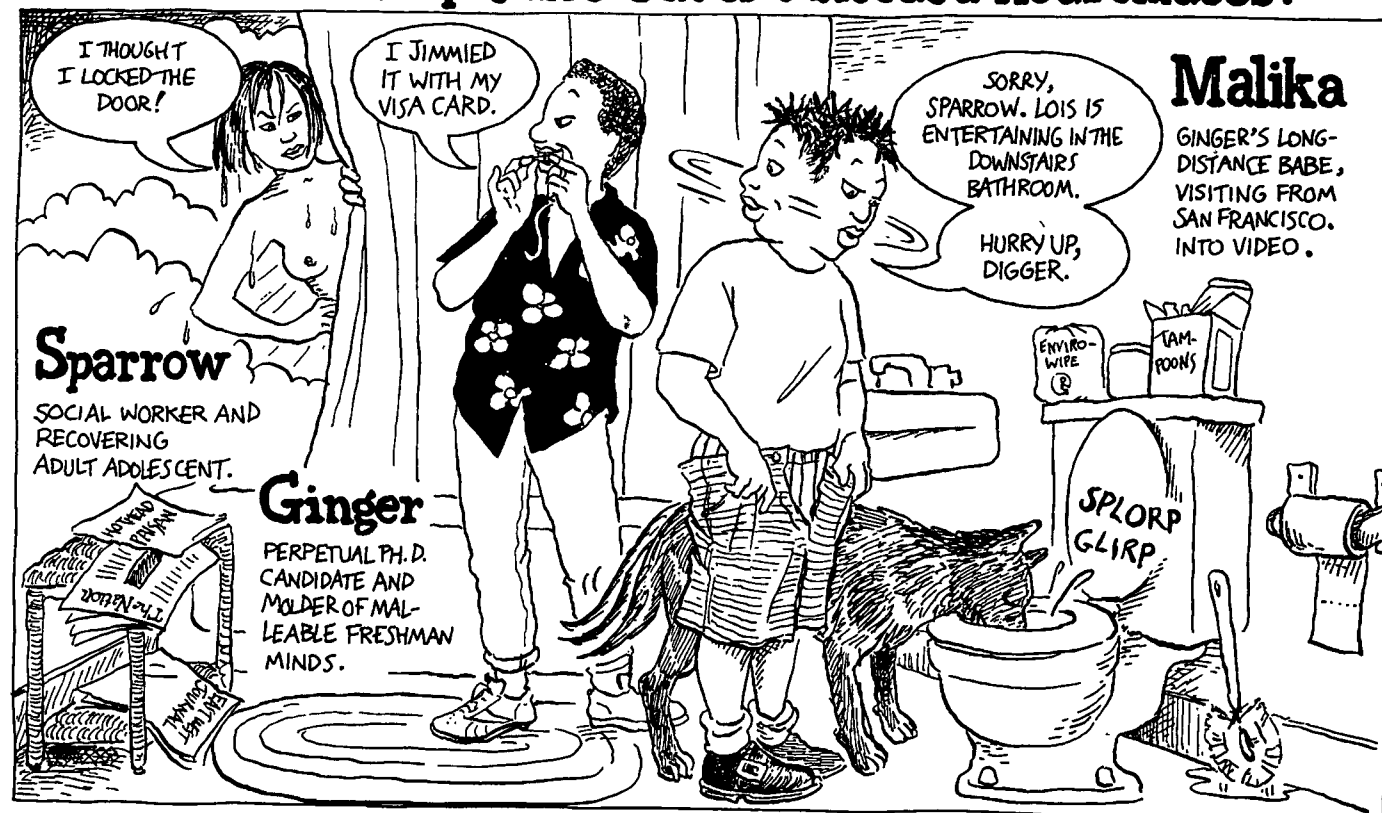
Featuring our stalwart cultural workers...



...our dedicated young professionals...



...and our hospitable but hot-blooded housemates.



Spurned for the Moment

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KITH AND KIN

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SHEESH! AS IF HAVING YOUR LOVER SERIOUSLY INJURED IN A CAR CRASH ISN'T AWFUL ENOUGH.

I KNOW. FORCED SEPARATION, EIGHT YEARS OF COURT BATTLES, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN LEGAL FEES! WHAT A NIGHTMARE!

WELL, IT'S OVER NOW.

MAYBE. BUT AT WHAT COST? IT MAKES ME CRAZY!

THE 107th Tribune
KAREN THOMPSON FINALLY
GRANTED GUARDIANSHIP
OF SHARON KOWALSKI

THE WHOLE @#%!*! PREHISTORIC LEGAL SYSTEM! WHERE DOES THE STATE GET OFF SAYING A MAN AND A WOMAN EQUALS A FAMILY, BUT TWO MEN OR TWO WOMEN IN LOVE DON'T!

IF KOWALSKI AND THOMPSON WERE MARRIED HETS, NONE OF THIS COULDA HAPPENED!

WELL, IT CAN'T HAPPEN TO US EITHER NOW THAT WE DREW UP WILLS AND POWERS OF ATTORNEY AND STUFF.



OH, YOU DON'T THINK SO? OUR PARENTS COULD CONTEST ALL THAT. YOU'RE NOT OUT TO YOURS, AND LAST TIME I CHECKED WITH MINE, I WAS STILL BOUND FOR THE FIERY PIT!

AND WHAT ABOUT THE BABY?! IF WE HAVE A KID AND YOU DIE, YOU THINK YOUR FOLKS ARE GONNA SIT BACK AND LET A QUEER RAISE THEIR GRANDCHILD WITHOUT A FIGHT?

DO YOU REALIZE THAT I'M NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY LEGAL RELATIONSHIP TO OUR KID? I CAN'T EVEN ADOPT HER UNLESS YOU GIVE UP YOUR RIGHTS AS MOTHER BECAUSE ADOPTION LAWS ALLOW FOR ONLY ONE PARENT OF EACH SEX, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.



I'M A "BIOLOGICAL STRANGER!" I'M "UNNATURAL!" I'M A "THREAT TO TRADITIONAL FAMILY VALUES!"

CLARICE! WE KNOW WE'RE A REAL FAMILY. THAT'S WHAT MATTERS! WHY GET SO WORKED UP ABOUT SOCIETAL APPROVAL?

HUH. MAYBE YOU HAVE A POINT. FAT LOT OF GOOD IT'S DONE "TRADITIONAL" FAMILIES ANYWAY. NINETY-FIVE PERCENT OF 'EM ARE DYSFUNCTIONAL.

OH, COME ON. ISN'T THAT A SLIGHT EXAGGERATION?

OKAY. A HUNDRED PERCENT.

DAMN STRAIGHT.



Good House-keeping

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OUR COMBUSTIBLE COHABITANTS HAVE CONVENED FOR THAT LOATHESOME BUT UNAVOIDABLE PHENOMENON, THE HOUSE MEETING!

DRIFTS OF DOG HAIR. SLIME IN THE BATHROOM SINK. FOUR MONTHS OF NEWSPAPERS STACKED IN THE KITCHEN. AND THE REFRIGERATOR! I'M AFRAID TO GO NEAR IT WITHOUT PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND A GAS MASK!

LOOK, WE CAN THINK OF IT AS A RITUAL OF RENEWAL! WE'LL ALL SPEND A DAY TOGETHER, THROWING OUT THE OLD, CLEANSING AND PURIFYING TO MAKE WAY FOR THE NEW! IT'LL BE SO GROWTHFUL!



SPARROW, SPARROW, SPARROW. WE'RE OBVIOUSLY NOT TALKING ABOUT HOUSECLEANING HERE, WE'RE TALKING PRIORITIES. A CLEAN SINK MAY BE IMPORTANT TO YOU, BUT I HAVE MORE RELEVANT GOALS IN MY LIFE.

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE SELFISH TO EXPECT ME TO TAKE TIME OUT FROM MY VALUABLE POLITICAL WORK, WHICH BENEFITS THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, JUST SO YOU CAN HAVE SPARKLING BATHROOM FIXTURES?

VALUABLE POLITICAL WORK?!

YEAH, RIGHT. THAT WAS PROBABLY GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING GOING ON IN HER BEDROOM LAST NIGHT.

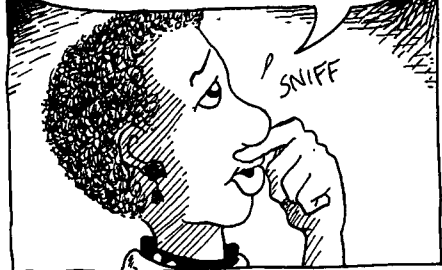


LISTEN. THE WAY I SEE IT, THE REAL ISSUE HERE IS OUR CLASS DIFFERENCES. LOIS, YOU COME FROM AN AFFLUENT SUBURBAN FAMILY. YOU GREW UP TAKING A NICE HOUSE FOR GRANTED...

YOU NEVER FELT ASHAMED OF YOUR PARENTS' UGLY USED FURNITURE. YOU NEVER SPENT THE FIRST MONEY YOU EVER EARNED ON A PAISLEY BEAN BAG CHAIR, SO YOUR FAMILY'S LIVING ROOM WOULD LOOK MORE LIKE THE ONES ON TV!

VERY TOUCHING, GINGER. BUT IT DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHY YOU'RE AS BIG A SLOB AS SHE IS.

HEY! I'M WORKING LIKE A DOG TO PUT MYSELF THROUGH A PH.D. PROGRAM! I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THE SHINE ON OUR LINOLEUM!



MAYBE YOU SHOULD DISCUSS THIS CLEANLINESS COMPULSION WITH YOUR ADULT CHILDREN'S GROUP, SPARROW.

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST NEVER REVEAL THE WHEREABOUTS OF A PARTICULAR BLACK LEATHER JACKET AND A CERTAIN OVER-STUFFED MAUVE ENVELOPE THAT ARRIVED IN THE MAIL THIS MORNING ADDRESSED TO GINGER "ANGEL LIPS" JORDAN.

THIS PLACE IS A TOTAL STY!

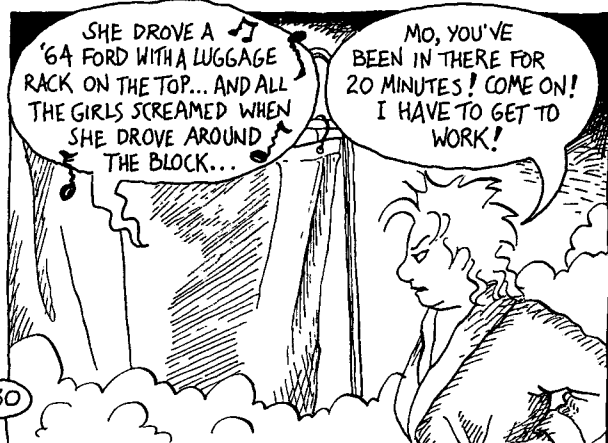
LIKE I ALWAYS SAY, YOU CAN'T BEAT VACUUMING FOR GROWTHFULNESS.



Thanks FOR THE MAMMARIES

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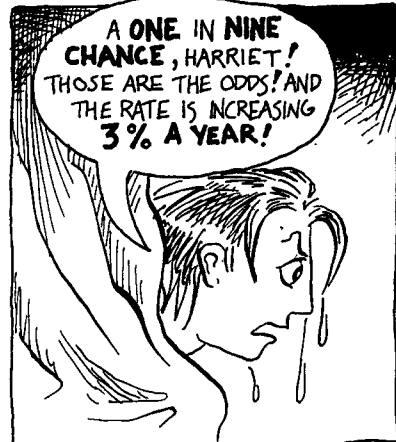
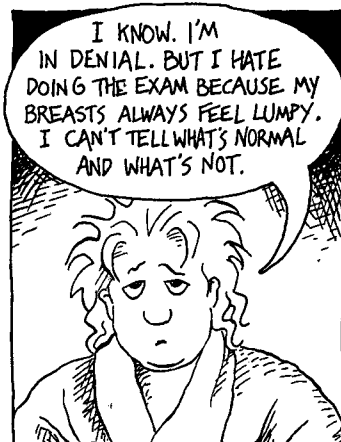
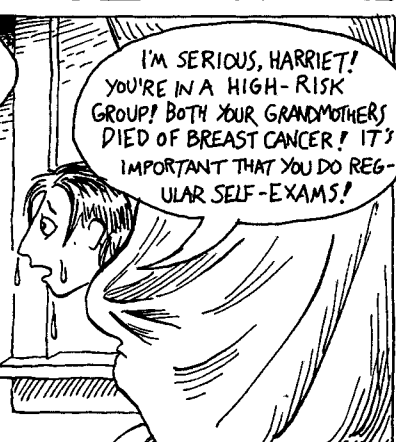
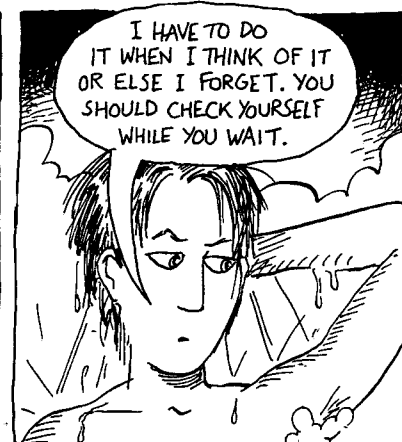
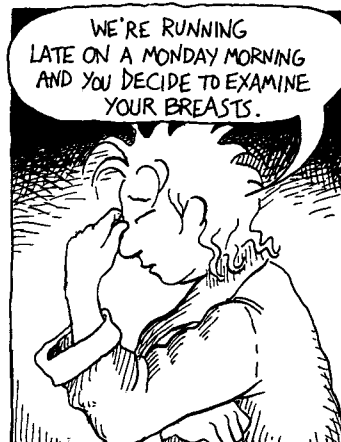
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MO, YOU'VE BEEN IN THERE FOR 20 MINUTES! COME ON! I HAVE TO GET TO WORK!



A TIP O' TH' HUB TO PHRANC?

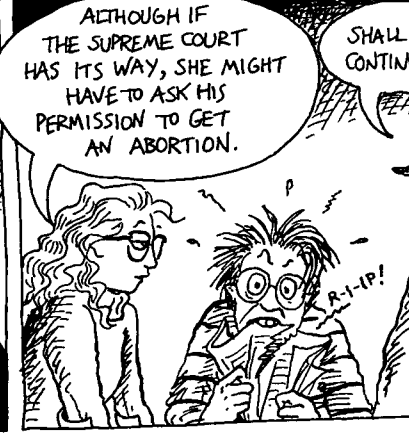
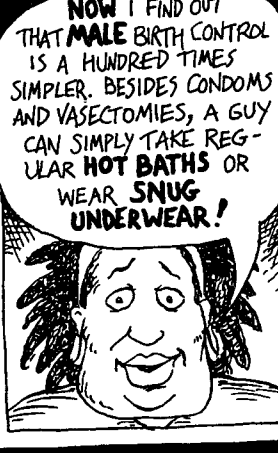
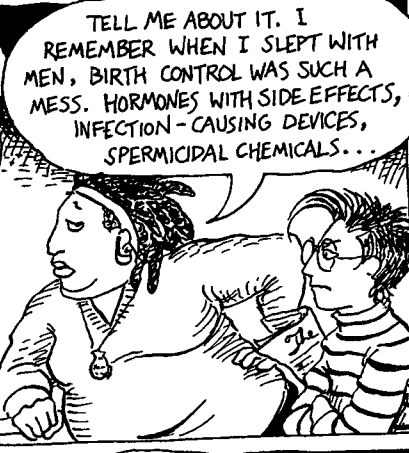
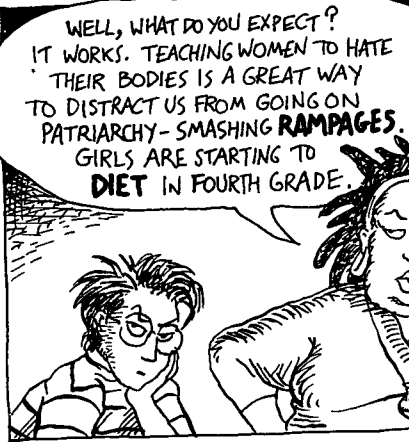
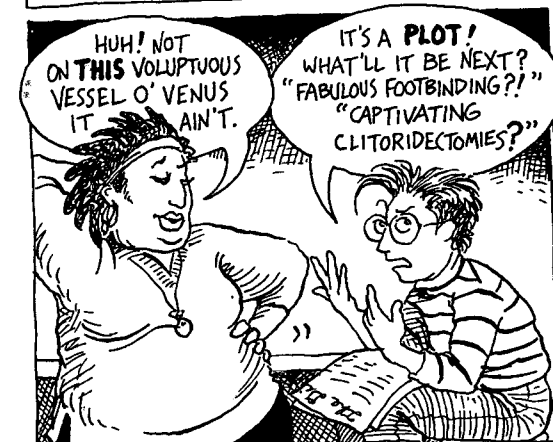
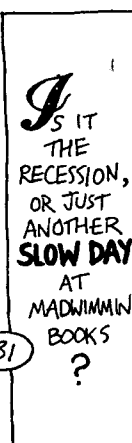


NO. I'D LOVE YOU MORE. YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T TAKE SO GODDAMN LONG IN THE SHOWER.

BODY and SOUL

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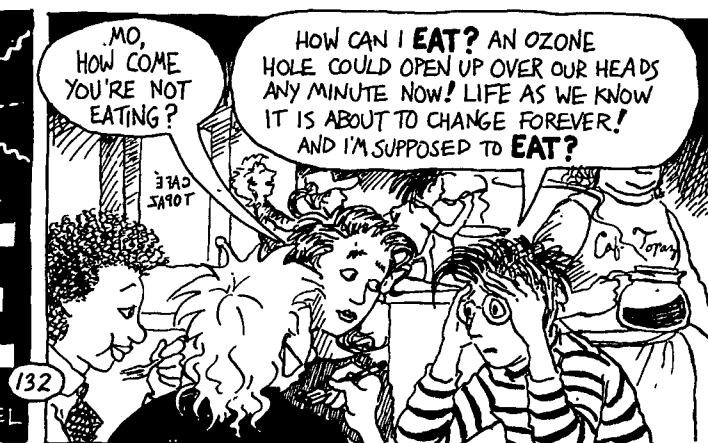


SHALL WE CONTINUE?

SHE'S GONNA GET INK ALL OVER HER TEETH AGAIN.

MO ZONE

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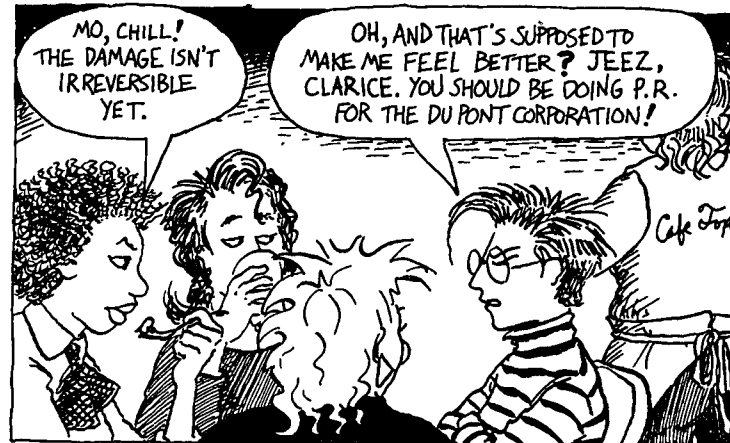


MO, HOW COME YOU'RE NOT EATING?

HOW CAN I EAT? AN OZONE HOLE COULD OPEN UP OVER OUR HEADS ANY MINUTE NOW! LIFE AS WE KNOW IT IS ABOUT TO CHANGE FOREVER! AND I'M SUPPOSED TO EAT?

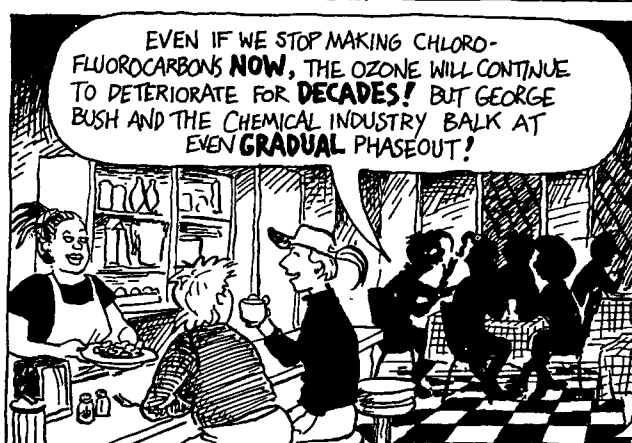


SKIN CANCER! CATARACTS! WEAKENED IMMUNE SYSTEMS! WITHERED CROPS! WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO US??



MO, CHILL! THE DAMAGE ISN'T IRREVERSIBLE YET.

OH, AND THAT'S SUPPOSED TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER? JEEZ, CLARICE, YOU SHOULD BE DOING P.R. FOR THE DU PONT CORPORATION!



EVEN IF WE STOP MAKING CHLORO-FLUOROCARBONS NOW, THE OZONE WILL CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE FOR DECADES! BUT GEORGE BUSH AND THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY BALK AT EVEN GRADUAL PHASEOUT!



WHAT DO THEY CARE ABOUT THE PLANET? THEY'VE LIVED THEIR LIVES! THEY'RE ALL GONNA DIE BEFORE IT GETS REALLY BAD, SO THEY MIGHT AS WELL MAKE A BUCK!

HON, IT'S A REAL TREAT LISTENING TO YOU RANT, BUT COULD YOU SAVE IT FOR LATER? I'D LIKE TO HEAR HOW CLARICE & TONI ARE DOING, AND MAYBE HAVE AN ACTUAL CONVERSATION.

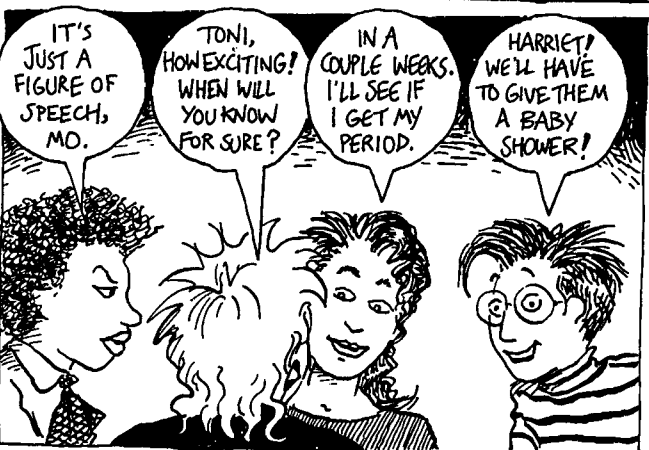


WE'RE DOING GREAT! WE GOT OUR FIRST SHIPMENT FROM THE SPERM BANK YESTERDAY!

IN FACT, WE COULD BE PREGNANT THIS VERY MOMENT!



WE? WHAT'D YOU DO, BOTH TAKE A HIT OF THAT STUFF?



IT'S JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH, MO.

TONI, HOW EXCITING! WHEN WILL YOU KNOW FOR SURE?

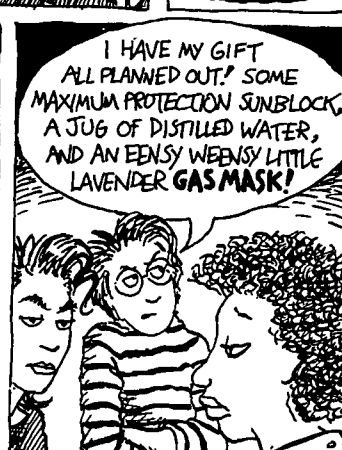
IN A COUPLE WEEKS. I'LL SEE IF I GET MY PERIOD.

HARRIET! WE'LL HAVE TO GIVE THEM A BABY SHOWER!



WHAT A GREAT IDEA, HON!

THAT'S SWEET, MO!



I HAVE MY GIFT ALL PLANNED OUT! SOME MAXIMUM PROTECTION SUNBLOCK, A JUG OF DISTILLED WATER, AND AN EENSY WEENSY LITTLE LAVENDER GAS MASK!

SPRING FEVER

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LOVE'S IN BLOOM AT GINGER'S HOUSE... BUT SOME PEOPLE SEEM TO BE ALLERGIC!



HEY! GUESS WHAT! SHE'S COMING! IN TWO WEEKS, SHE'S GONNA BE HERE!



WHO?

WHO? MALIKA! MY BELOVED! WHO ELSE?



GINGER, WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT YOUR PHONE HABITS. I HAD TO MAKE A CALL LAST NIGHT BUT YOU WERE STILL ON THE LINE WHEN I WENT TO BED AT TWELVE!

OH, SORRY! IT'S SO HARD TO KEEP TRACK OF TIME WHEN I'M TALKING TO HER. BUT AREN'T YOU EXCITED?



ARF!

WHY? IS SHE BRINGING SOMEONE FOR ME TOO?

IT'S A LITTLE EARLY IN THE DAY FOR EXCITEMENT.

YOU'D BOTH HAVE A LOT MORE ENERGY IF YOU EXERCISED IN THE MORNINGS. I FEEL SO ALIVE! LET'S GO, DIGGER!



WHY DO WE GIVE HER SUCH A HARD TIME, LOIS? SHE DESERVES TO BE HAPPY. ARE WE JEALOUS?



NAH, WE'RE JUST TRYING TO KEEP A LID ON HER ENTHUSIASM SO SHE WON'T BE QUITE SO DISAPPOINTED WHEN IT'S OVER.

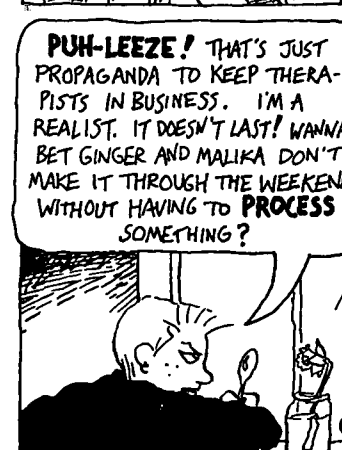


YOU DON'T THINK THINGS ARE GONNA WORK OUT BETWEEN THEM?



OH, THEY MIGHT STAY TOGETHER TILL THEY'RE 80, BUT THAT "IN LOVE" STUPOR WON'T LAST MUCH LONGER.

WHY NOT? IF A COUPLE IS REALLY COMMITTED TO EXPLORING INTIMACY, THE "IN LOVE" FEELING CAN DEEPEN OVER TIME!



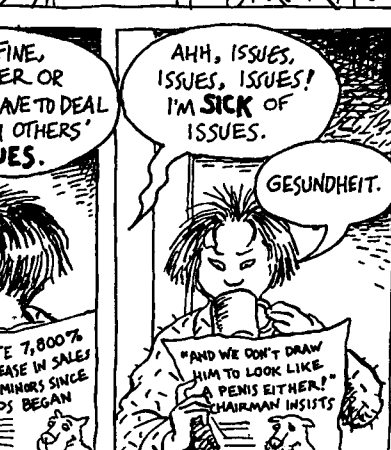
PUH-LEEZE! THAT'S JUST PROPAGANDA TO KEEP THERAPISTS IN BUSINESS. I'M A REALIST. IT DOESN'T LAST! WANNA BET GINGER AND MALIKA DON'T MAKE IT THROUGH THE WEEKEND WITHOUT HAVING TO PROCESS SOMETHING?



I HOPE THEY PROCESS! COPING CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH CONFLICT IS NECESSARY FOR AN ONGOING RELATIONSHIP!



SPARROW, I KNOW STRUGGLING FOR INTIMACY TURNS YOU ON, BUT I WANNA HAVE FUN.



FUN'S FINE, BUT SOONER OR LATER YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH EACH OTHER'S ISSUES.

AHH, ISSUES, ISSUES, ISSUES! I'M SICK OF ISSUES.

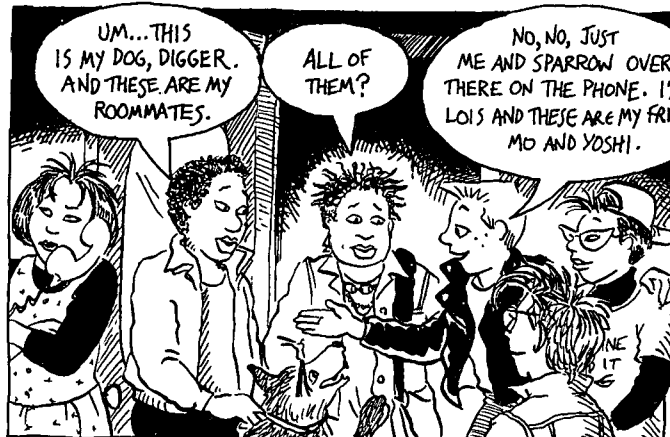
GESUNDHEIT!

Alone at Last!

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GINGER ANXIOUSLY AWAITS THE ARRIVAL OF HER AIRBORNE AMOROSA!



THE FUNDAMENTAL THINGS APPLY...

As Time Goes By...

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FINALLY FACE TO FACE WITH HER PASSIONATE PEN PAL, GINGER CHOKES!

6:05

SO, HERE'S OUR OPTIONS FOR TONIGHT. WE'LL GO HAVE DINNER FOR STARTERS, THEN SEE A MOVIE - HERE'S THE LISTINGS - OR THERE'S AN AFRICAN DANCE TROUPE IN TOWN, OR WE COULD GO TO THIS PLAY AT THE UNIVERSITY. THEN AFTER THAT WE CAN GO OUT DANCING, OR ELSE TO A PARTY SOME FRIENDS ARE HAVING. WHATEVER YOU PREFER.



VIDEO
DISPLAY

MALIKA'S
VISIT
IS
COMING
TO
AN
EXCITING
ANTICLIMAX!

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WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU DON'T
HAVE ORGASMS WITH A PARTNER?
MAYBE ALL YOUR OTHER PARTNERS
WERE JUST BAD LOVERS!
LEMME TRY AGAIN!

WHOA, BABE. RELAX. I'D BE VERY HAPPY
TO MAKE LOVE SOME MORE, BUT NOT JUST SO
YOU CAN "GIVE" ME AN ORGASM. I WISH
EVERYONE DIDN'T MAKE SUCH A BIG DEAL
OUT OF A FEW MUSCULAR CONTRACTIONS.

WELL, UH...
D'YOU WANNA MAKE
YOURSELF
COME?

GINGER, IF THAT'S ALL
I WANTED, I COULDA SAVED
A COUPLA HUNDRED BUCKS AND
STAYED IN SAN FRANCISCO. LOOK,
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, OKAY?

OKAY, OKAY. NO
PRESSURE. COME BACK TO
BED AND I PROMISE I WON'T
TRY TO MAKE YOU HAVE AN
ORGASM. DEAL?

DEAL.

OH! WAIT
A SECOND! I
BROUGHT SOME-
THING!

UH-OH. SOME
KIND OF WILD SEX
TOY FROM THE BIG
BAD CITY?

YOU COULD
CALL IT THAT. I WANTED
TO HAVE SOMETHING TO
REMEMBER YOU BY.
I'LL SEND YOU A
COPY.

MEANWHILE... MO & HARRIET ARE EXPERIENCING
TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES OF THEIR OWN.

BUT YOU
DIDN'T EVEN
ASK ME!

I KNEW YOU'D JUST TRY
TO GUILT-TRIP ME! BESIDES, IT'S
MY MONEY AND I'VE WANTED A
VCR FOR A LONG TIME.

WHAT'S THE BIG
DEAL? YOU'RE ALWAYS WATCHING
MOVIES OVER ON LOIS & GINGER'S!
ISN'T IT A LITTLE HYPOCRITICAL TO
ACT LIKE YOU'RE TOO PURE TO
HAVE ONE YOURSELF?

NO! SHARING THINGS WITH
FRIENDS IS A GOOD WAY TO REDUCE
THE RAMPANT JUNK PRODUCTION AND
MINDLESS CONSUMERISM THAT'S
KILLING OUR PLANET!

LOOK,
I JUST WANNA
FUCKING TAPE "ALL
MY CHILDREN."

RIGHT. NEXT YOU'LL NEED A
BIGGER TV, THEN AN "ENTERTAINMENT
CENTER" TO PUT IT IN AND A RECLINER
TO WATCH IT FROM... THEN CABLE!
IT'S AN ADDICTIVE SPIRAL! THE MORE
YOU BUY, THE MORE YOU NEED! IT'S
BETTER TO QUIT NOW, HARRIET!

OKAY, FINE.
I'M MOVING OUT.

Breaking
Down is
Hard
To Do

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SO HARRIET'S
MOVING OUT. MY LIFE
IS A MESS.

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AND WHY
SHOULDN'T IT BE?
WHY SHOULD MY PERSONAL
LIFE GO SMOOTHLY IN
SUCH A VIOLENT, EVIL
WORLD?

I CAN'T
BELIEVE THOSE COPS
GOT ACQUITTED
IN L.A.!

HOW COULD THE NON-BLACK JURY SAY THEIR
DECISION HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE FACT
THAT RODNEY KING IS BLACK? I'M SO SICK OF
WHITE PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY'RE NOT RACIST
JUST BECAUSE THEY WATCH THE COSBY SHOW!

THIS COUNTRY IS
BUILT ON RACISM, AND
THE SOONER WE ALL ADMIT
IT, THE SOONER WE CAN
START FIXING IT.

SO WHAT
DOES GEORGE BUSH DO?
BLAMES THE RIOTS ON "LIBERAL
PROGRAMS OF THE 60'S AND 70'S"
THEN JETS IN FOR
A PHOTO OP!

JEEZIZ,
IT'S JUST ALL
SO HORRIBLE.

WHY ARE
PEOPLE SO MEAN?
WHY DO THEY HURT
EACH OTHER?

SOB!
CLIXE

IT'S OKAY,
MO. LET IT
COME

TEN MINUTES LATER...

HONK!
I GUESS I CAN'T
BLAME THAT ON
HAYFEVER.

HA! NO,
NOT QUITE! HOW DO
YOU FEEL? YOU'VE NEVER
REALLY LET YOURSELF
CRY WITH ME
BEFORE.

OH, I FEEL
GREAT, ANYA! THE
WORLD'S STILL FUCKED UP, MY
GIRLFRIEND'S STILL LEAVING ME...
BUT NOW I HAVE A SPLITTING
HEADACHE TO TAKE MY
MIND OFF IT.

stunned

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I LOVE YOU A LOT MO, BUT I'M JUST NOT IN LOVE ANY MORE. I'M STARTING TO REALIZE THAT I'VE BEEN UNHAPPY FOR A LONG TIME NOW.



THINGS HAVE GOTTEN SO... SO STAGNANT BETWEEN US. WE'VE STOPPED GROWING.

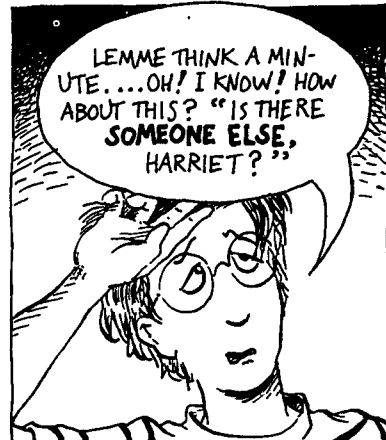


I NEED TO BE ALONE FOR A WHILE, SORT OUT MY FEELINGS, GET IN TOUCH WITH MYSELF.



MO, TALK TO ME!

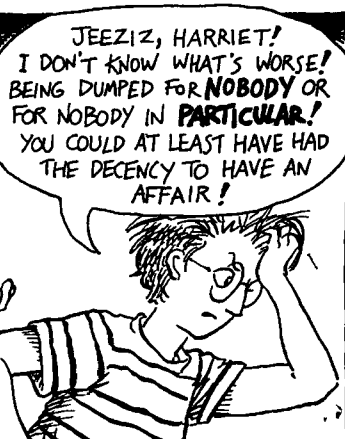
WHAT'S LEFT TO SAY HARRIET? YOU USED UP ALL THE GOOD CLICHES! GOD, I FEEL LIKE I'M TRAPPED IN A BAD SOAP OPERA!



LEMME THINK A MINUTE... OH! I KNOW! HOW ABOUT THIS? "IS THERE SOMEONE ELSE, HARRIET?"



NO, NOBODY! I ALREADY TOLD YOU. NOBODY IN PARTICULAR ANYWAY.

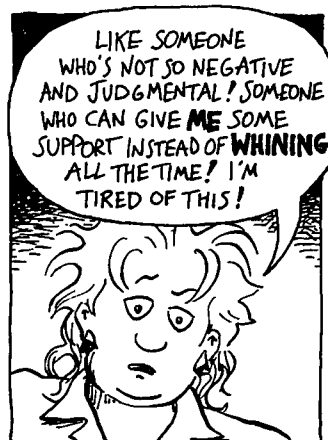


JEEZIZ, HARRIET! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WORSE! BEING DUMPED FOR NOBODY OR FOR NOBODY IN PARTICULAR! YOU COULD AT LEAST HAVE HAD THE DECENCY TO HAVE AN AFFAIR!



IT'S JUST THAT I'VE BEEN MEETING A LOT OF NEW PEOPLE SINCE I STARTED VOLUNTEERING FOR THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON. I'M REALIZING THERE ARE THINGS I WANT THAT I'M NOT GETTING HERE.

LIKE WHAT? SOMEONE WHO MAKES LOTS OF MONEY AND LIKES TO SPEND IT ON ELECTRONIC GADGETS? SOMEONE WHO'LL EAT AT BURGER KING WITH YOU? WHAT?



LIKE SOMEONE WHO'S NOT SO NEGATIVE AND JUDGMENTAL? SOMEONE WHO CAN GIVE ME SOME SUPPORT INSTEAD OF WHINING ALL THE TIME? I'M TIRED OF THIS!



FINE! THEN LEAVE! GO GET SOME "SUPPORT" FROM YOUR NEW FRIENDS! GO ON! WHO'S STOPPING YOU?

FINE. I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THIS. I'M GOING TO A COMMITTEE MEETING.



WHAT TIME WILL YOU BE BACK? I'LL SAVE YOU SOME CURRIED SPINACH SURPRISE!

GO FISH

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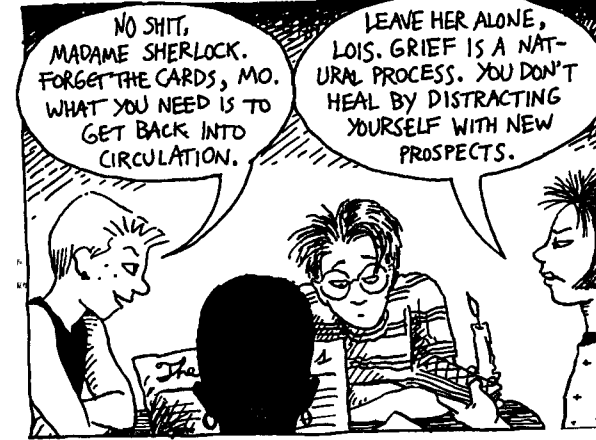
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WHILE HARRIET PACKS TO LEAVE THEIR APARTMENT, MO TURNS TO HER DEVOTED FRIENDS FOR SOLACE AND UNDERSTANDING.



JEEZ, MO! DON'T BE SO BUMMED! I NEVER THOUGHT HARRIET WAS RIGHT FOR YOU ANYWAY. THERE'S PLENTY MORE FISH IN THE SEA. IT'S PARTY TIME!

LOIS, BE QUIET. I NEED TO CONCENTRATE. HMM... THE THREE OF SWORDS... THAT'S REALLY INTERESTING, MO. IT MEANS YOU'RE EXPERIENCING PAIN AND SORROW... POSSIBLY THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE.



NO SHIT, MADAME SHERLOCK. FORGET THE CARDS, MO. WHAT YOU NEED IS TO GET BACK INTO CIRCULATION.



LEAVE HER ALONE, LOIS. GRIEF IS A NATURAL PROCESS. YOU DON'T HEAL BY DISTRACTING YOURSELF WITH NEW PROSPECTS.



OH, COME ON. WE'VE ALL DONE IT. IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER.

THAT'S FOR SURE. HOPE DOES SPRING ETERNAL, DOESN'T IT? NO MATTER HOW BAD I'VE BEEN BURNED IN BREAKUPS, PART OF ME ALWAYS FELT EXCITED ABOUT HAVING ANOTHER CHANCE TO FIND THE REAL MS. RIGHT.



COMPLETE WITH SHINING ARMOR, WHITE HORSE, AND NO BAGGAGE?

YEAH. SOMEONE MYSTERIOUS, BEGUILING. SOMEONE WHO'LL SAY THE THINGS YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO HEAR. SOMEONE WHO'S NOTHING LIKE ANY OF YOUR EXES.



AT LEAST NOT UNTIL YOU GET TO KNOW HER. THEN YOU FIND OUT SHE'S EXACTLY LIKE YOUR EXES, ONLY WORSE.

OH, LIGHTEN UP! THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH A LITTLE ROMANCE TO TAKE YOUR MIND OFF YOUR TROUBLES.



SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE ADDICT. SEARCH FOR THE PERFECT LOVER TO SOLVE ALL YOUR PROBLEMS RATHER THAN FACE THEM ON YOUR OWN. NOW LEAVE US ALONE! I'M TRYING TO GIVE MO A READING HERE.



IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND WHO REALLY APPRECIATED ME FOR ONCE. MAYBE SOMEONE WHO COULD PLAY GUITAR... AND COOK THAI FOOD...

MMM. THE FOOL. THIS IS A POWERFUL CARD, MO. ITS DIVINATORY SYMBOLISM IS EVOCATIVE AND COMPLEX.



REALLY? WHAT'S IT MEAN?

IT MEANS "WATCH IT, BABE, OR YOU COULD DO SOMETHING REALLY STUPID."

LAST TANGO

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HARRIET BEDS DOWN ON THE COUCH FOR HER FINAL NIGHT AT THE APARTMENT.

140

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE JUST LEAVING. I MEAN, SHOULDN'T WE PROCESS THIS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS? AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO PAY LOTS OF MONEY TO A THERAPIST BEFORE WE BREAK UP?

IT'S TOO LATE, MO. I'M SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET THINGS SLIDE FOR SO LONG, BUT THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR ME TO PROCESS.

JUST LIKE THAT, BANG! YOU DON'T LOVE ME ANY MORE. IT'S OVER.

LISTEN, I FEEL AWFUL TOO! I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M LEAVING THE PERSON I'M CLOSEST TO IN THE WHOLE WORLD!

SO DON'T! UNPACK YOUR VCR AND STAY!

I KNOW. YOU CAN'T.

SOB!

DON'T CRY, SWEETHEART!

BWAA HAA HAA!

IT'S OKAY, DON'T WORRY.

SNK.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M NEVER GOING TO MAKE LOVE TO YOU AGAIN.

I KNOW. JEEZ, IF I'D KNOWN THAT TIME ON THE COUCH AFTER ROSEANNE WAS GONNA BE OUR LAST, I WOULD'A LIT SOME CANDLES OR SOMETHING.

AT LEAST WE COULD'VE TAKEN ALL OUR CLOTHES OFF.

MMMF! Plurp! PANT

TOO YANK! fumble

I WENT AWAY ON A RELENTLESS TIDE OF BODILY FLUIDS, OUR DISCONSOLATE HEROINES BID THEIR ULTIMATE ADIEUS!

MATER. NAL. IN. STINCT

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At a hastily-planned pro-choice rally somewhere downtown...

...WOMEN ARE NOT BABY FACTORIES FOR THE STATE! WE MUST CONTROL OUR REPRODUCTIVE LIVES!

ALL WE ARE SAY-ING IS GIVE LIFE A CHANCE

STOP ABORTION NOW

ABORTION LEGAL

TONI, CLARICE!

AGAINST ABORTION DON'T HAVE ONE!

HI, SPARROW.

KEEP YOUR ROSARIES OFF MY OVARIES!

HEY GINGER, LOIS!

HAVEN'T SEEN YOU TWO AROUND LATELY. HOW'S THINGS IN BABYLAND?

EXPENSIVE.

WE'VE BEEN INSEMINATING FOR FOUR MONTHS NOW WITH NO LUCK.

MAYBE WE SHOULD ALL GET TO-GETHER AND HAVE SOME KIND OF FERTILITY RITE NEXT TIME YOU TRY!

D'YOU MAKE LOVE WHEN YOU DO IT? I HEARD IT HELPS IF YOU HAVE AN ORGASM.

HOW LONG WILL YOU KEEP TRYING? I MEAN, MAYBE YOU'RE NOT MEANT TO HAVE A BABY.

OH, GIVE US A BREAK! IS THAT WHAT YOU'D SAY TO A STRAIGHT COUPLE AFTER FOUR MONTHS?

WOULD YOU QUIZ THEM ON THEIR SEX LIFE, AND OFFER TO COME BY WITH INCENSE AND CRYSTALS?!

BUT YOU'RE NOT STRAIGHT! YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING REALLY DIFFERENT! WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS, WE'RE INTERESTED!

YO! WHO'S THE BABE OVER THERE WITH HARRIET?

OH, THAT'S ELLEN. SHE'S HEAD OF THE LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON.

HEY, WHERE'S MO? ANYONE SEEN HER LATELY?

SHE'S TAKING THE BREAKUP KIND OF HARD. I CAN'T GET HER TO LEAVE HER HOUSE EXCEPT TO COME TO WORK.

MEANWHILE...

HI, MOM. IT'S ME.

MONICA! DO YOU HAVE A COLD? YOU SOUND FUNNY.

NO, I'M JUST KINDA LOW ENERGY. UH... HARRIET & I BROKE UP. SHE MOVED OUT YESTERDAY.

OH, THAT'S TOO BAD! WILL YOU HAVE TO GET A NEW ROOMMATE? LISTEN, I'M JUST ON MY WAY DOWN TO THE MALL TO STAFF THE PEROT TABLE. I'LL CALL YOU LATER AND TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT, OKAY?

YEAH, OKAY.

emasculate conception

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EMOTIONS ARE TURBULENT AS CLARICE AND TONI BEGIN THEIR FIFTH ROUND OF INSEMINATION.

142

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU STARTED OVULATING A DAY EARLY! FOR THE LAST YEAR YOU'VE BEEN LIKE CLOCKWORK! I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE WE GET A REFUND IF THE SPERM DOESN'T GET HERE IN TIME!

CLARICE, AS LONG AS IT COMES TODAY, WE'LL BE FINE. MY CYCLE IS PROBABLY OFF FROM ALL THE STRESS. AND YOU'RE NOT HELPING BY OBSESSING ABOUT THE MONEY!



I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY I'M NOT THE PERFECT CO-PARENT-TO-BE! ALL THE TIMING AND WAITING AND HOME PREGNANCY TESTS ARE STRESSING ME OUT TOO. AND I CAN'T HELP WORRYING ABOUT THE MONEY AT A HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE BUCKS A POP!



BZZZT!

THAT MUST BE POP NOW.

GREAT! IT'S ONLY SIX O'CLOCK. WE CAN DO IT AND STILL GET TO OUR BABY GROUP ON TIME. YOU GO LIE DOWN. I'LL GET EVERYTHING READY.



SO HOW MANY TIMES IS THIS? YOU TWO MUST BE SHELLING OUT THE DOUGH.

DON'T THEY EVER CHANGE YOUR ROUTE?



IT'S HERE! UNH! I'M GONNA THAW IT OUT!

REMEMBER TO DOUBLE-CHECK THE DONOR NUMBER...



YEOW!

...AND BE CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE CONTAINER WITH YOUR BARE HANDS.



OH, NO! I FORGOT, WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BRING FOOD TO THE GROUP TONIGHT.



SHIT! WELL, WE CAN STOP AND GET SOME KIND OF TAKEOUT. WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY, THOUGH. ARE YOU READY?

OH, CLARICE! I DIDN'T WANT IT TO BE LIKE THIS!



TONI, IT'S NO BIG DEAL! SARAH AND LOUISE BRING TAKEOUT ALL THE TIME!

NO, I MEAN THIS! I WANTED IT TO BE SPECIAL AND ROMANTIC, NOT SOMETHING WE HAVE TO SQUEEZE IN BEFORE RACING OUT OF THE HOUSE!



I KNOW, SWEETHEART. > KISS < BUT CAN WE TALK ABOUT IT LATER? WE'RE LOSING SPERM MOTILITY BY THE SECOND HERE.



SURPRISE SURPRISE

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143

SPARROW, WHAT'S ON THIS TAPE IN THE VCR?

I DUNNO. IT'S NOT MINE. DOWN, DIGGER.



OH MY GOD! LOOK AT THIS!

REALLY, LOIS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU SEE IN THOSE PORN VIDEOS... OH MY GOD! THAT'S... THAT'S...



GINGER! AND MALIKA!



AAUGH!



MEANWHILE, IN CLARICE & TONI'S BATHROOM...

LET'S NOT GET TOO EXCITED. YOUR PERIOD MIGHT JUST BE LATE BECAUSE OF ALL THE STRESS WE'VE BEEN UNDER.

BUT I FEEL DIFFERENT, CLARICE. I THINK THIS MIGHT BE IT!



BUT MAYBE YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING THINGS BECAUSE YOU WANT IT SO BAD. DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED IF THE TESTER SHOWS NEGATIVE. WE'LL JUST TRY AGAIN!



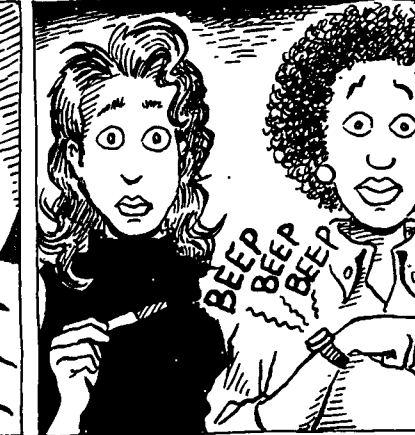
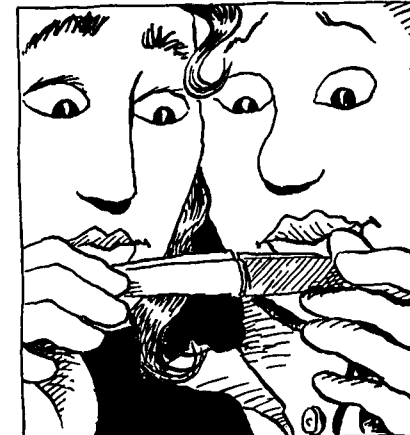
HON, I'M NERVOUS ENOUGH AS IT IS. I CAN'T PEE IF YOU'RE GONNA STAND THERE WATCHING ME LIKE THAT.

OKAY, OKAY. I'LL BE RIGHT OUTSIDE.



THERE. IN FOUR MINUTES, WE'LL KNOW.

I'LL SET MY WRIST ALARM!



SWEET OF BIRD YOUTH

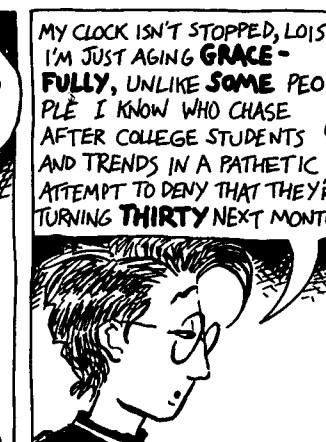
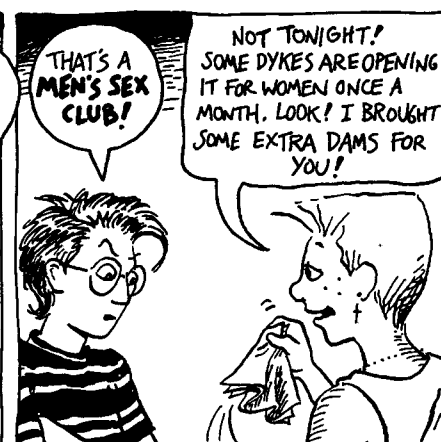
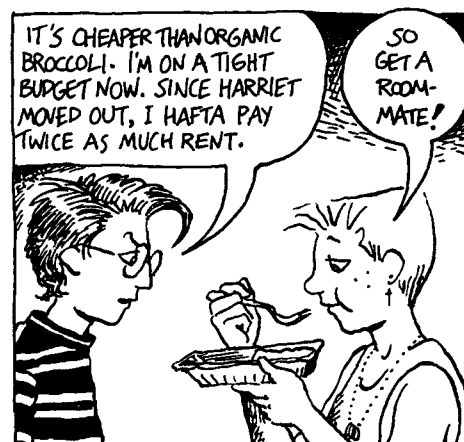
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144

Mo is wallowing in her just-dumped status.



ALBUM PLAYING OVER FOR THE TWENTY-EIGHTH TIME TODAY.

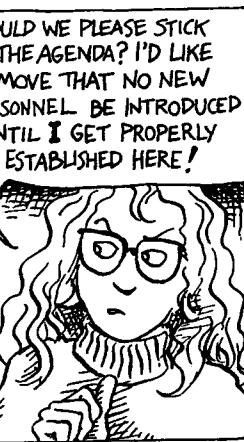
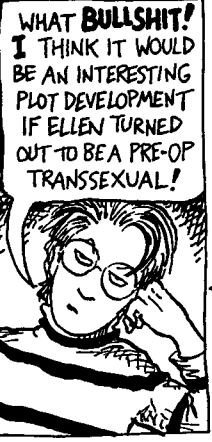
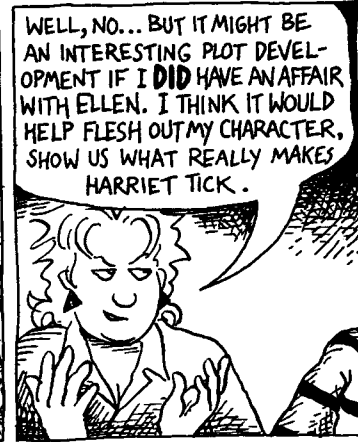
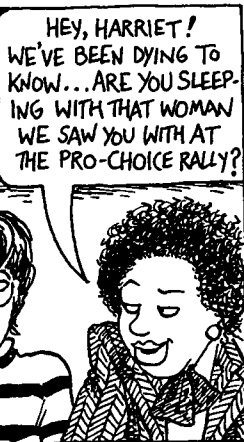
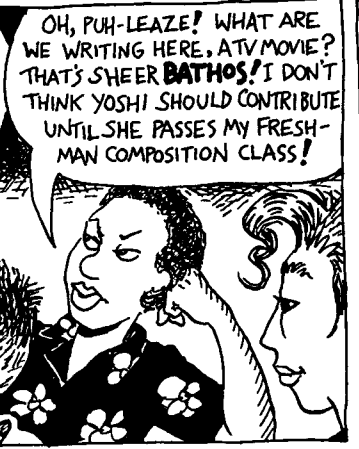


the PLOT thickens

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145

AN UNUSUAL NEW CONTRACT PROVISION HAS JUST BEEN IMPLEMENTED AT THIS COMIC STRIP. BY THREATENING A WALKOUT, THE RANK AND FILE HAVE GAINED COMPLETE CONTROL OF OUR STORY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION!



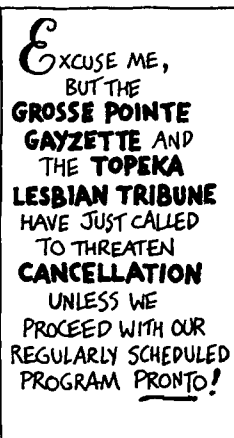
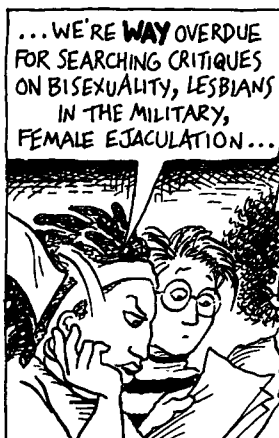
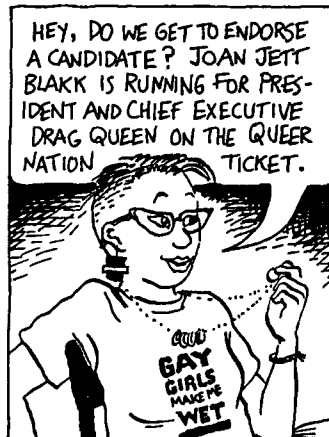
HAVE THEY BITTEN OFF MORE THAN THEY CAN CHEW? STAY TUNED!

policy failure

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HAVING WRESTED PLOT CONTROL FROM THE HANDS OF MANAGEMENT, LOCAL 428 OF THE FEDERATED SISTERHOOD OF LESBIAN COMIC STRIP CHARACTERS IS PUTTING IN OVERTIME TRYING TO REACH CONSENSUS!

146



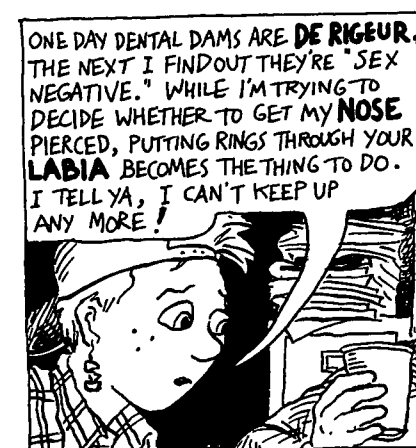
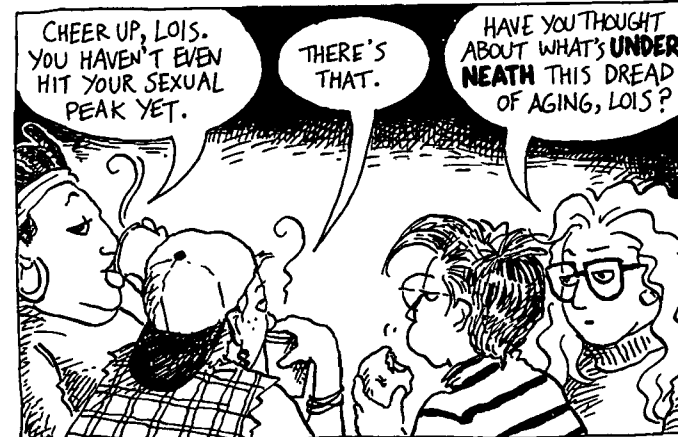
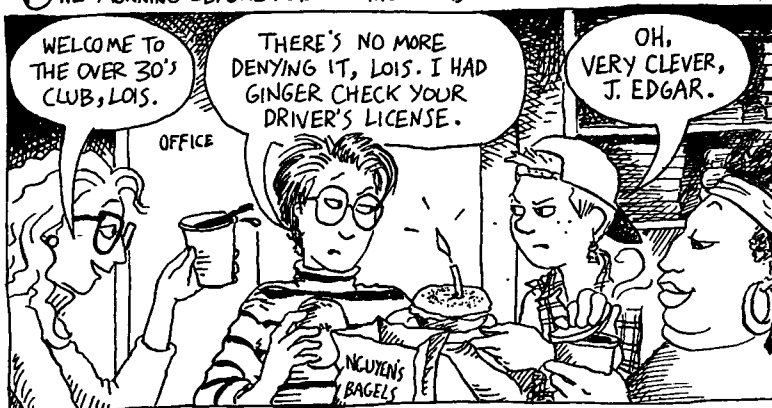
TIME & TIDE

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147

AFTER THEIR FAILED COUP IN THE STORY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OF THIS COMIC STRIP, OUR CHARACTERS DUTIFULLY RESUME THEIR TALE.

ONE MORNING BEFORE MADWIMMIN BOOKS OPENS ITS DOORS...



the virus

©1992 BY ALISON BECHDEL

OUR HEARTBROKEN HEROINE IS HAVING A HARD TIME BOUNCING BACK TO HER USUAL PERKY SELF.

148

LOOK AD BE... SNIFF < WHAD A BESS! I'B DEVER GOIG TO GET ADUTHER GIRLFRED.



SNIFF

MEEOW!

MRRRAOWL

JEZADDA, I CAD CUB TO WORK TODAY. I CAD EVED BREEDTH.

WHAT? YOU CAN'T BREED? THANK THE GODDESS! THAT'D BE ALL WE NEED, HORDES OF WHINING MO-SPAWN UNLEASHED UPON SOCIETY.

VERY FUDDY. COULD YOU PLEASE ASK LOIS TO BRIG SUB CAT FOOD OVER HERE OD HER LUTCH BREAK? I'B TOO SICK TO GO OUT.

SURE. YOU JUST TAKE IT EASY. TRY EATING SOME RAW GARLIC. THAT'LL FIX WHAT AILS YOU.



CAUTION: BOOKS



MRAO!

YEOWL!



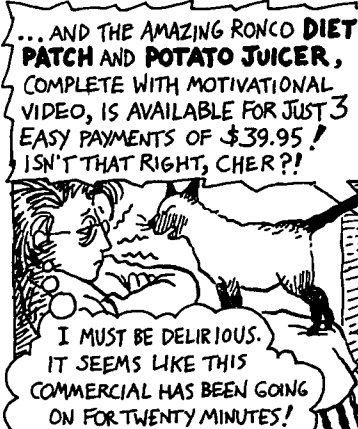
... AND THE AMAZING RONCO DIET PATCH AND POTATO JUICER, COMPLETE WITH MOTIVATIONAL VIDEO, IS AVAILABLE FOR JUST 3 EASY PAYMENTS OF \$39.95! ISN'T THAT RIGHT, CHER?!

IT SURE IS! AND LET ME TELL YOU, THIS PRODUCT HAS CHANGED MY LIFE! MY INCOME HAS **TRIPLED** SINCE I SIGNED UP FOR THIS GIG!

THAT AFTERNOON... GOD, YOU LOOK LIKE SHIT. AND YOU SMELL LIKE A PICKLE FACTORY. I HOPE YOU'RE NOT CONTAGIOUS.

THAGS FOR CUBBIG OVER, LOIS. I WAS AFRAID IF I DOZED OFF I'D LOSE A LIMB.

NO PROBLEM. I HAVE A LITTLE CARE PACKAGE FOR YOU, TOO!



I MUST BE DELIRIOUS. IT SEEMS LIKE THIS COMMERCIAL HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR TWENTY MINUTES!



MRROWW



SAMPLINGS FROM MY VIDEO COLLECTION AND SOME CHICKEN SOUP!

THAT'S VERY SWEET, BUT I'B A FUCKIG VEGETARIAD AD I DOTE HAVE A VCR.

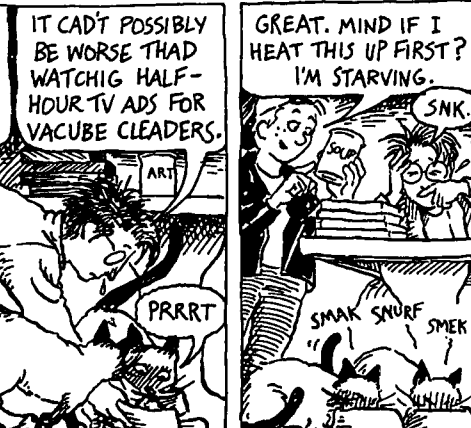
OH. WELL THEN HOW ABOUT IF I REGALE YOU WITH TRUE STORIES OF MY NIGHT AT THE **LOVE TUNNEL**? NAMES CHANGED TO PROTECT THE GUILTY, OF COURSE.

IT CAD'T POSSIBLY BE WORSE THAD WATCHIG HALF-HOUR TV ADS FOR VACUBE CLEADERS.

GREAT. MIND IF I HEAT THIS UP FIRST? I'M STARVING.



THE VIRGIN MACHINE
SAMMY & ROSIE GET LAID
LAIR OF THE WHITE WORM
HOW TO FEMALE STACUATE



PRRRT

SNK

SMAX SNURF SMER

The SIGHTING

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MO HAS MANAGED TO HEAVE HERSELF FAR ENOUGH FROM THE SLOUGH OF DESPOND TO MAKE IT TO HER WORKSHIFT AT THE CO-OP.

149

OKAY, NAOMI... THE DRIED, UNSULPHURED, ORGANIC BURDOCK CHIPS ARE ALL RESTOCKED.

GREAT. NOW DO THE SULPHURED, COMMERCIAL ONES, THEN THE WHEAT-FREE TAMARI-ROASTED TRANSITIONAL PAPAYA SPEARS.



MO! YOU'VE RESURFACED! I THOUGHT WE'D LOST YOU FOR A WHILE THERE. YOU FEELING BETTER ABOUT THE BREAKUP?

NO. I FEEL LIKE SLASHING HARRIET'S TIRES. Y'KNOW, I THINK SHE MIGHT BE SEEING SOMEONE.

REALLY? ARE YOU TWO TALKING?

UH-UH. SHE NEEDS TO HAVE "A PERIOD OF NO CONTACT." HA! I'LL SHOW HER NO CONTACT!

UH... YEAH, WHY?



SHH! NOT HERE!

I WANT REFINED SUGAR!



SO WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU? STILL INVOLVED WITH THAT WOMAN?

TAKE IT FROM ONE WHO KNOWS, GINGER, AND END IT **NOW** BEFORE YOU MAKE EACH OTHER MISERABLE.

OOPS! LOOKS LIKE I'M IN THE GRIMADVICE AISLE... I WAS LOOKING FOR LURID GOSSIP.

HI, CLARICE! DID TONI SEND YOU OUT FOR PICKLES AND ICE CREAM?

I WISH. NO, I'M BUYING ALL THIS HEALTHY SHIT FOR HER NEW... I MEAN, OUR NEW DIET. NO MORE GREASY TAKEOUT BARBECUE TILL THE KID'S WEANED... HEY, HAVE YOU TWO HEARD THE WORD ON NAOMI?

WHAT ABOUT HER?

BOYFRIEND.

NO!



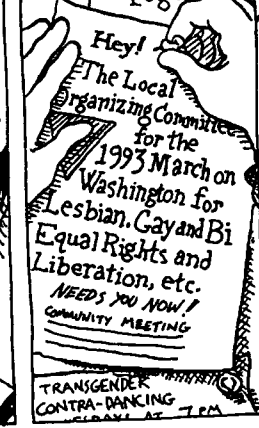
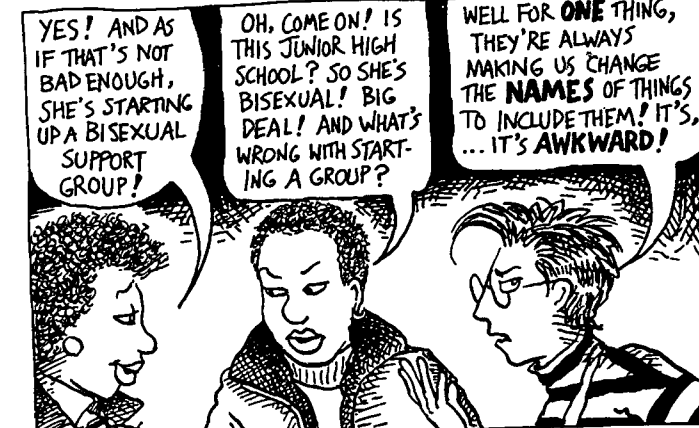
YES! AND AS IF THAT'S NOT BAD ENOUGH, SHE'S STARTING UP A BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP!

OH, COME ON! IS THIS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL? SO SHE'S BISEXUAL! BIG DEAL! AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH STARTING A GROUP?

WELL FOR **ONE** THING, THEY'RE ALWAYS MAKING US CHANGE THE **NAMES** OF THINGS TO INCLUDE THEM! IT'S... IT'S **AWKWARD**!

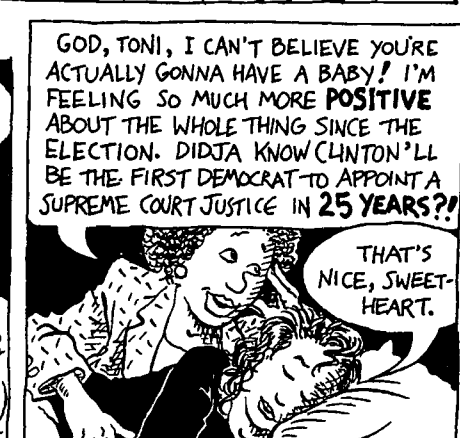
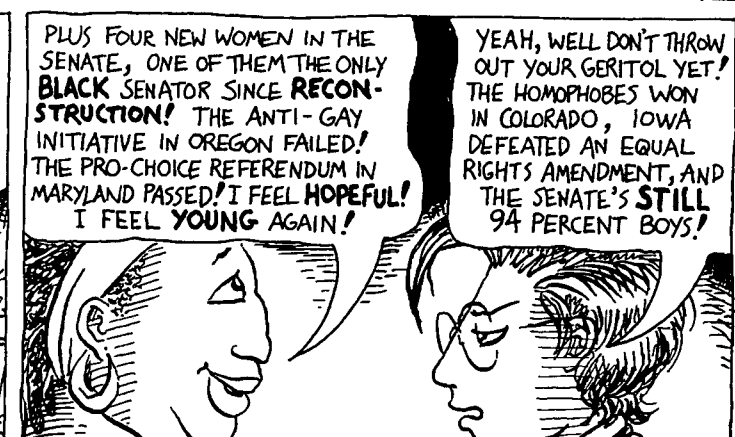
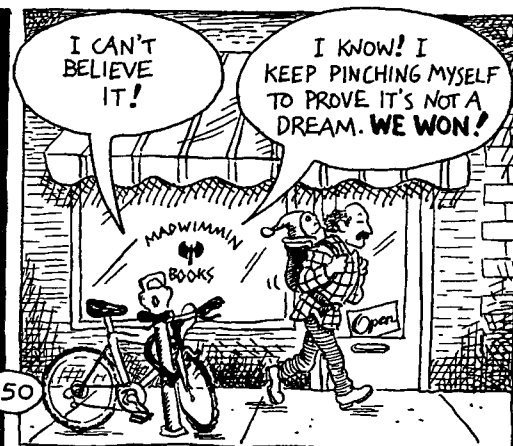
Hey! The Local Organizing Committee for the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation, etc. NEEDS YOU NOW! COMMUNITY MEETING

UH-OH. RED ALERT OVER AT THE BULLETIN BOARD. IT'S **HARRIET**... AND SOMEONE ELSE.



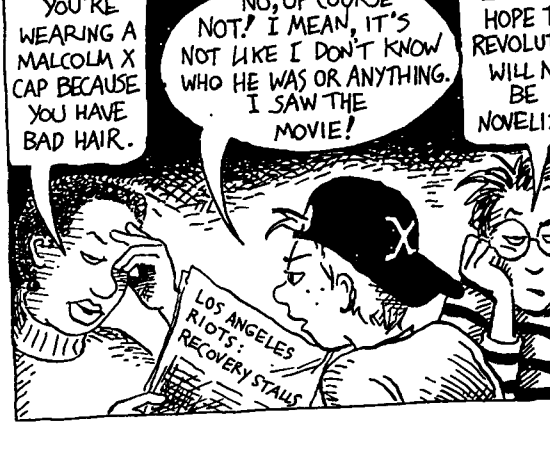
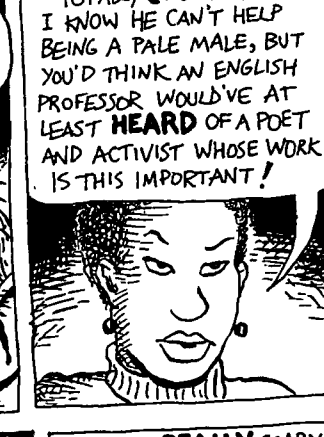
HOPE in HELL

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THE MASTER'S TOOLS

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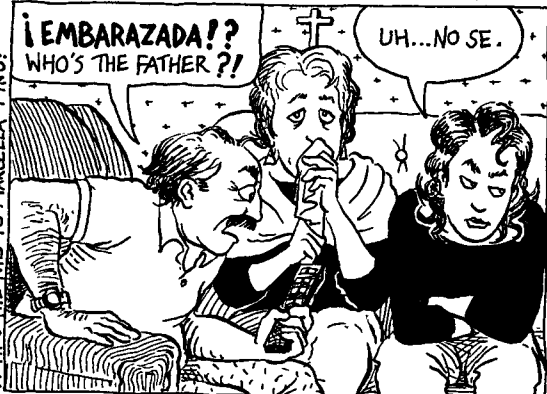
NOPLACE LIKE HOME

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OUR VALIANT HEROINES HAVE VENTURED FORTH ON HOLIDAY VISITS TO THEIR FAMILIES OF ORIGIN. LET'S JOIN THEM ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.

152

TONI CHOOSES THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE.



A LA PUTA! AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS OF SCHOOL, AFTER ALL WE'VE DONE FOR YOU! YOU TURN OUT NO BETTER THAN YOUR COUSIN CARMEN! WHAT WILL WE TELL LA FAMILIA?



CLARICE GETS UPSTAGED.



LOIS REMINISCES WITH THE GIRL NEXT DOOR...

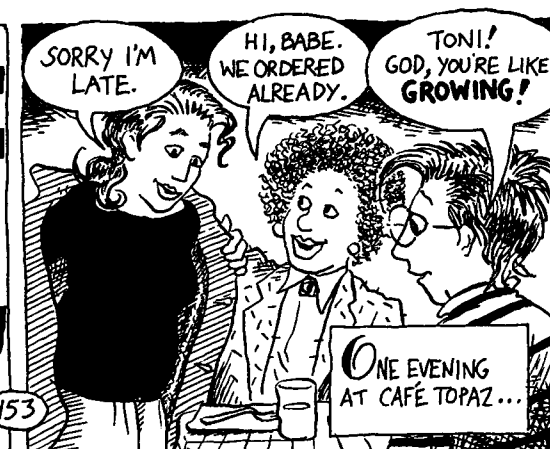


AND MO DISCOVERS JUST HOW ABUSIVE HER FAMILY SYSTEM REALLY IS!



SAY THE RIGHT THING

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SUGAR & SPICE

©1992 BY ALISON BECHDEL

LOIS STOPS IN AT THE HAIR PATROL ON HER LUNCH BREAK.



ARE YOU SERIOUS? AFTER YOU'VE GROWN IT ALL OUT SO NICE?

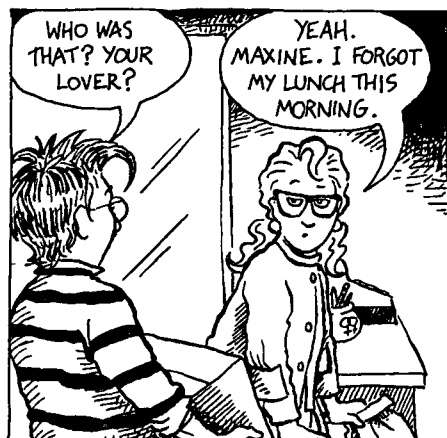
AHH, IT'S ONLY HAIR, MIKO! C'MON, DO ME! JUST LIKE THE PHOTO, OKAY?

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE SHOP...



HERE YOU GO! GOTTA RUN...

THANKS, HON. SEE YOU TONIGHT.



WHO WAS THAT? YOUR LOVER?

YEAH. MAXINE. I FORGOT MY LUNCH THIS MORNING.



HUH. ME TOO, BUT NOBODY'S GONNA RUSH OVER AND DELIVER MINE WITH A KISS. MUST BE NICE.

YEAH, I GUESS IT IS.



SPARE ME THE GORY DETAILS. I HEAR ENOUGH ABOUT DOMESTIC BLISS FROM CLARICE & TONI.

WILL THAT BE ALL?

YES.



IT'S GETTING REALLY HARD TO TAKE! THEIR TENTH ANNIVERSARY, THEIR HOTSHOT CAREERS, A BABY COMING. NOW THEY'RE SHOPPING FOR A STATION WAGON.

I DON'T NEED A BAG, THANKS.

THANK YOU.



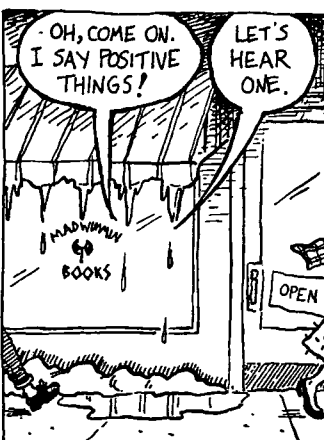
AND LOOKIT ME! BROKE, JILTED, DUSTING SHELVES ALL DAY AND GOING HOME TO MY CATS AT NIGHT. I'M A TRAGIC FIGURE!

OH, I DUNNO. PATHETIC, MAYBE. D'YOU EVER STOP AND LISTEN TO YOURSELF?



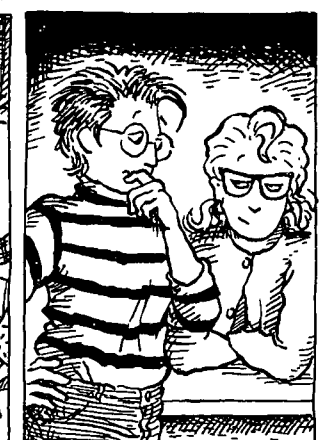
WH-WHADDAYA MEAN?

I MEAN YOU ARE A REAL PILL. I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER HEARD YOU SAY ANYTHING POSITIVE.



OH, COME ON. I SAY POSITIVE THINGS!

LET'S HEAR ONE.



UM... YOUR HAIR LOOKS NICE LIKE THAT.

OH MY GOD!



TA DA! WHAT DO YOU THINK? IT'S THE FIRST "PEROT" IN TOWN!

UM... YOUR HAIR LOOKS NICE LIKE THAT.

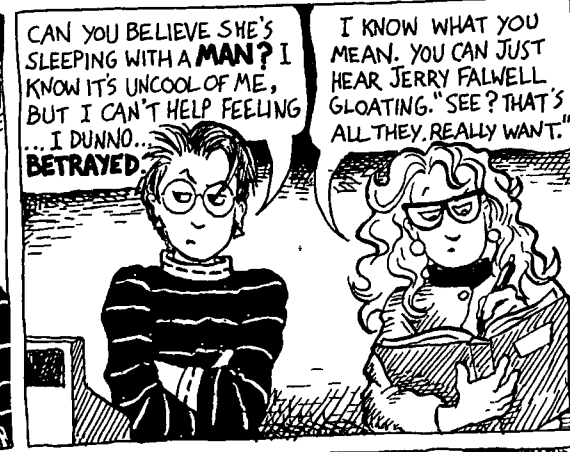
Cultural Exchange

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THANKS, 'MO. DON'T WORK TOO HARD.

BYE, NAOMI. SEE YOU AT THE CO-OP.



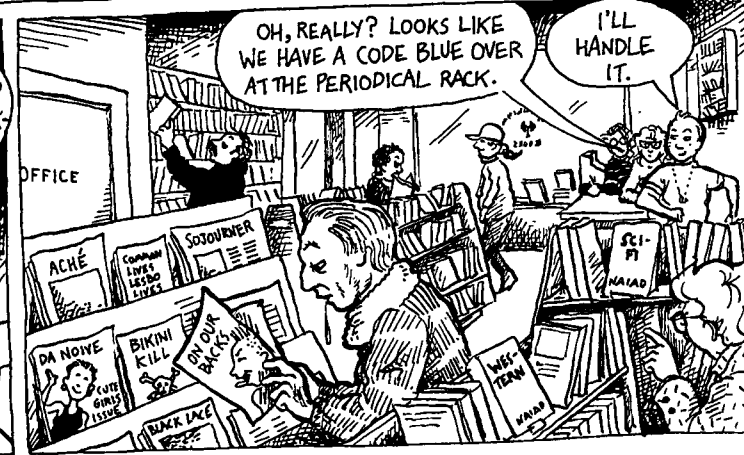
CAN YOU BELIEVE SHE'S SLEEPING WITH A MAN? I KNOW IT'S UNCOOL OF ME, BUT I CAN'T HELP FEELING... I DUNNO... BETRAYED.

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. YOU CAN JUST HEAR JERRY FALWELL GLOATING. SEE? THAT'S ALL THEY REALLY WANT.



AND YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE? IT BUGS ME THAT SHE CAN COME IN HERE AND SOAK UP LESBIAN CULTURE, THEN GO HOME TO HER SAFE, SOCIETALLY APPROVED BOYFRIEND.

AHH, WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF, 'MO? THERE'S ROOM FOR EVERYBODY! I SAY THE MORE PEOPLE SOAKING UP LESBIAN CULTURE, THE BETTER!



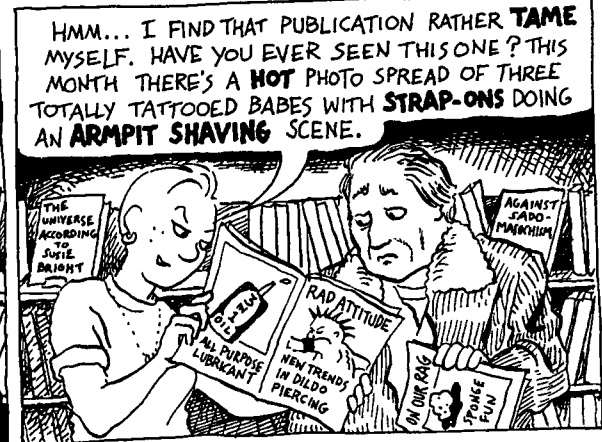
OH, REALLY? LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A CODE BLUE OVER AT THE PERIODICAL RACK.

I'LL HANDLE IT.



CAN I HELP YOU FIND SOMETHING, SIR?

UM... JUST BROWSING.



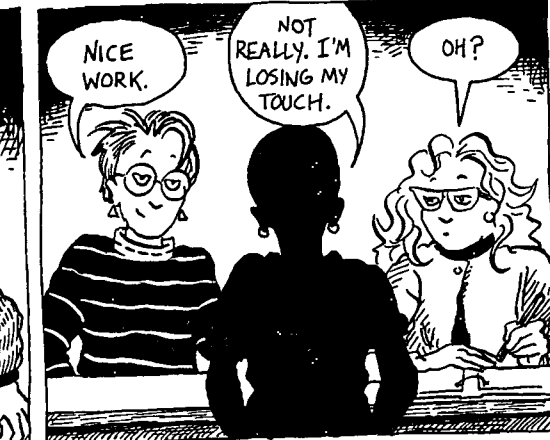
HMM... I FIND THAT PUBLICATION RATHER TAME MYSELF. HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THIS ONE? THIS MONTH THERE'S A HOT PHOTO SPREAD OF THREE TOTALLY TATTOOED BABES WITH STRAP-ONS DOING AN ARMPIT SHAVING SCENE.



AND IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A REAL THRILL, CHECK OUT THE STORY, "SHE CAME IN WAVES," IN THIS NEW FEMALE EJACULATION ANTHOLOGY!



'SCUSE ME, I THINK I LEFT MY CAR AT A HYDRANT.



NICE WORK.

NOT REALLY. I'M LOSING MY TOUCH.

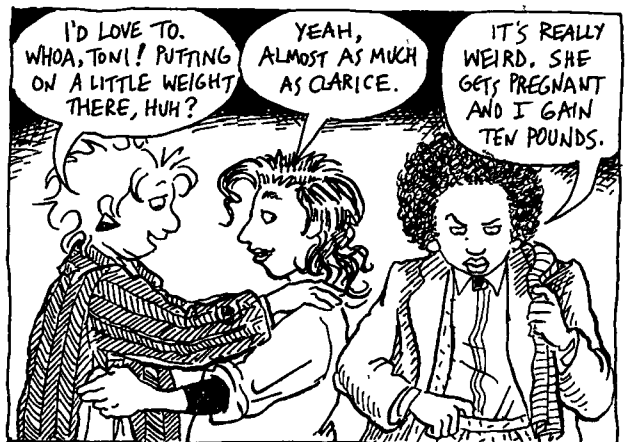
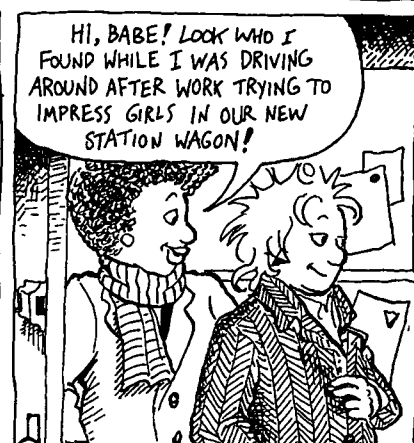
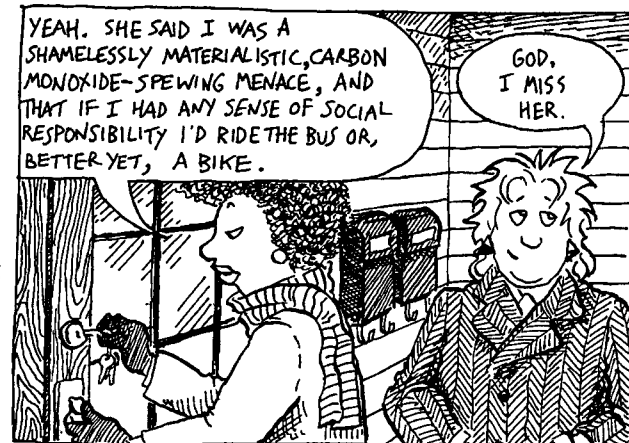
OH?



LAST WEEK I FLUSTERED A GUY SO BAD HE SPENT SIXTYBUCKS BEFORE HE LEFT.

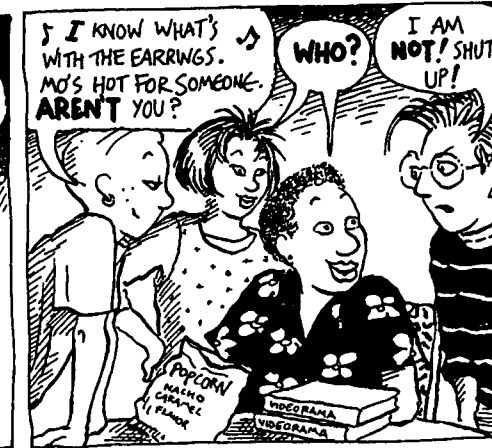
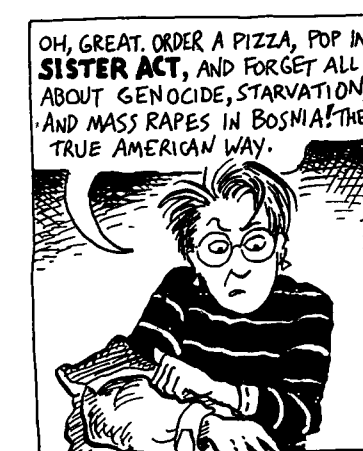
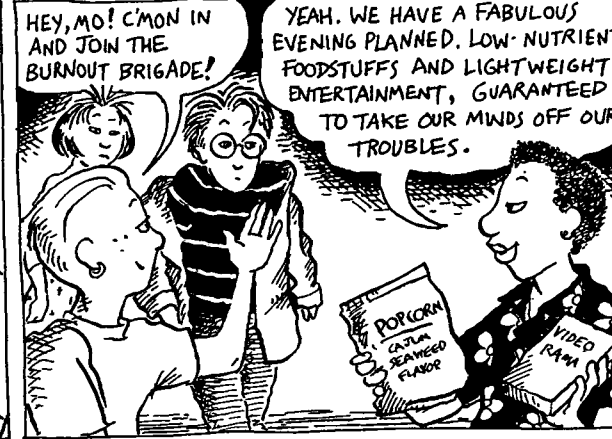
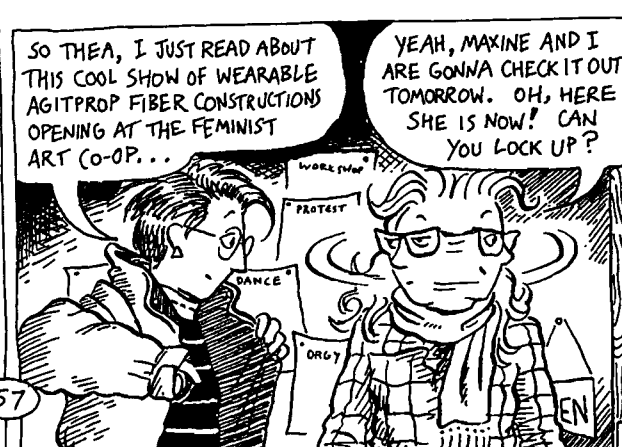
WAGON HO

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Diversions

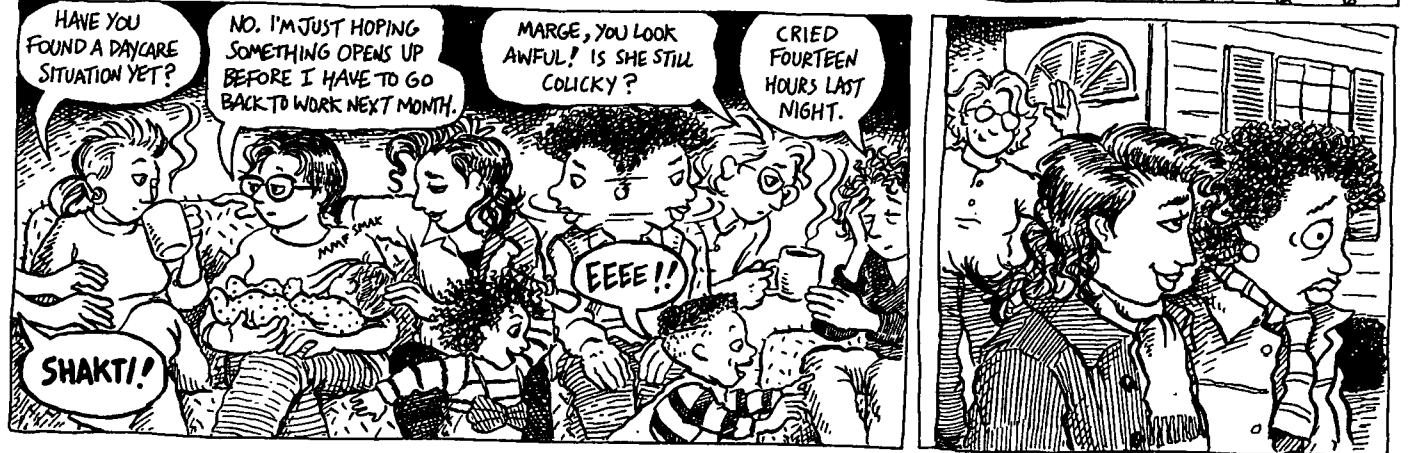
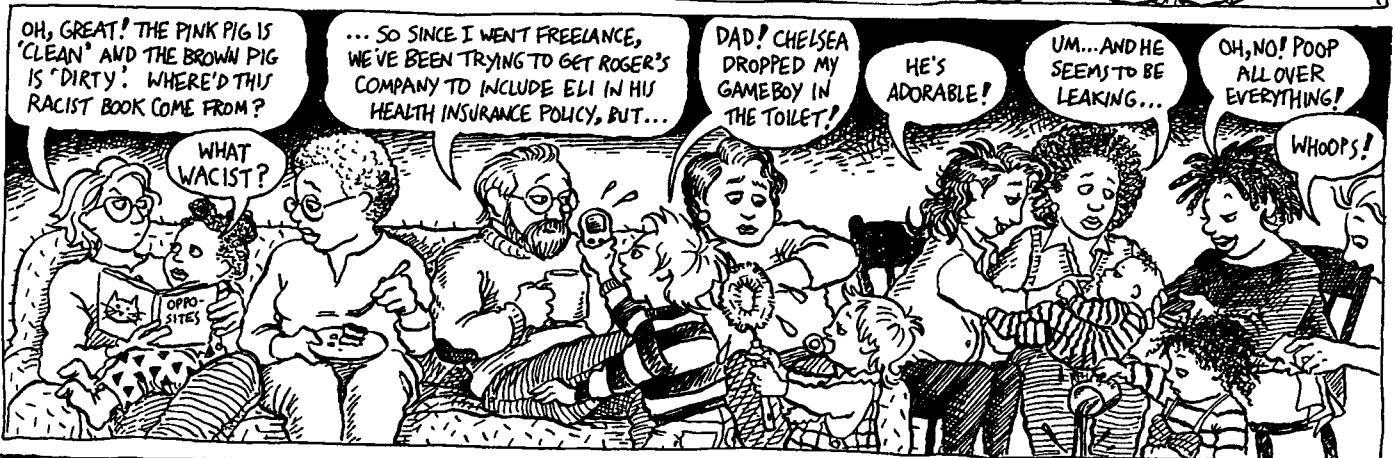
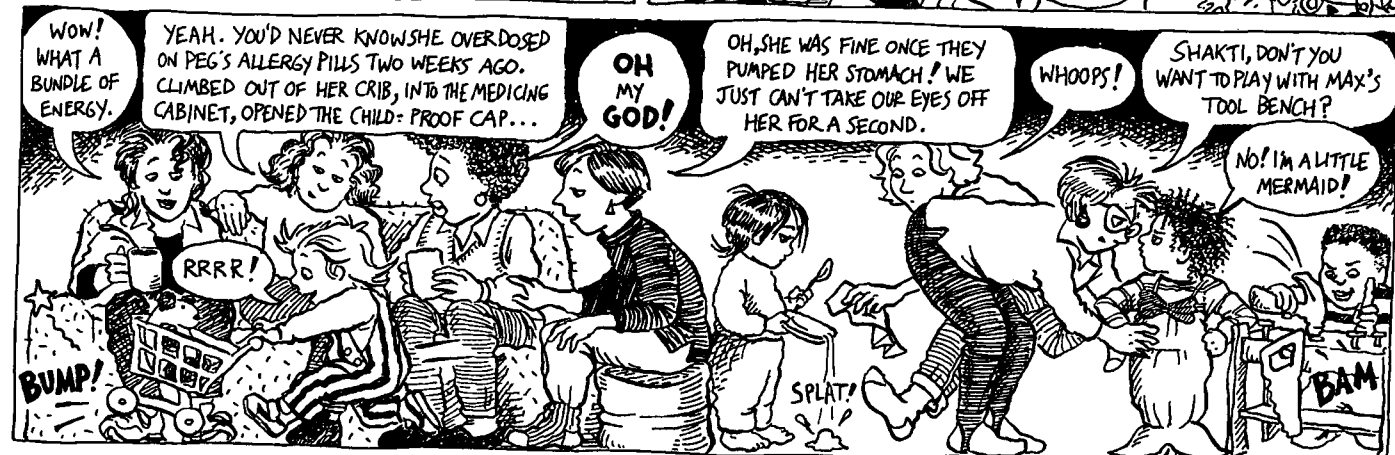
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2 minds

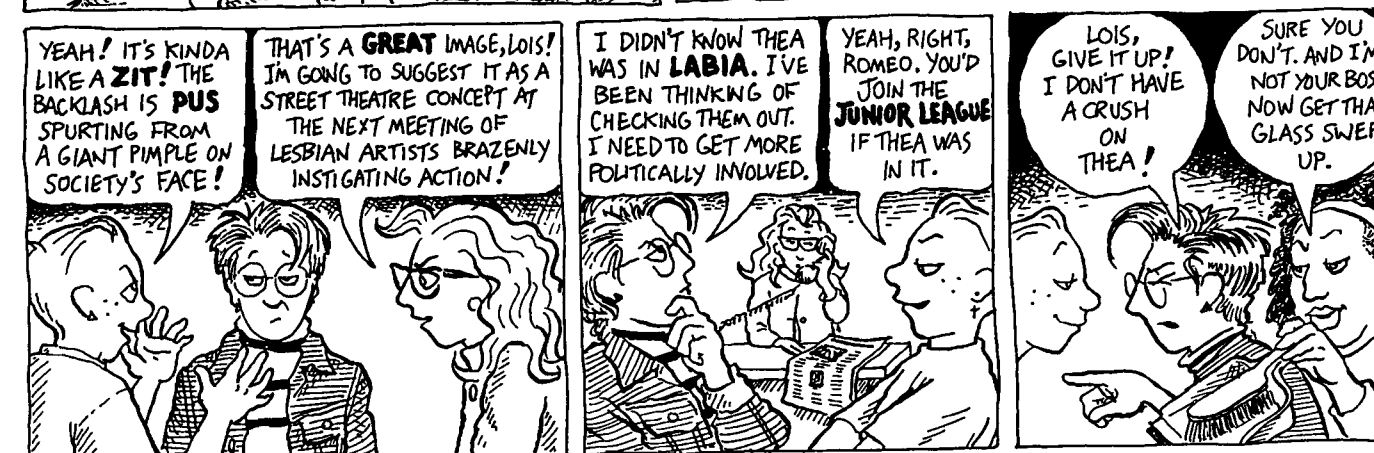
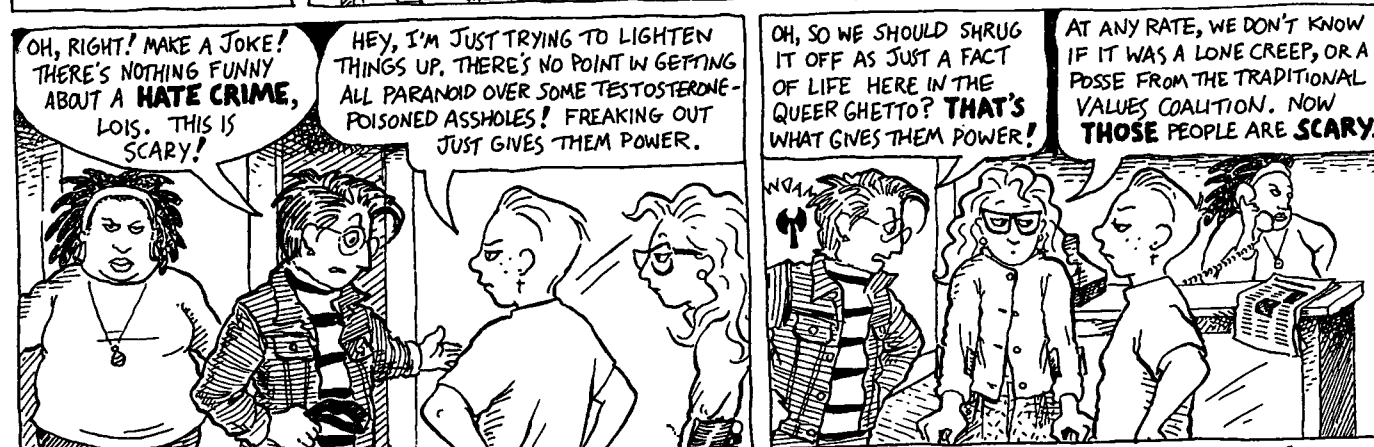
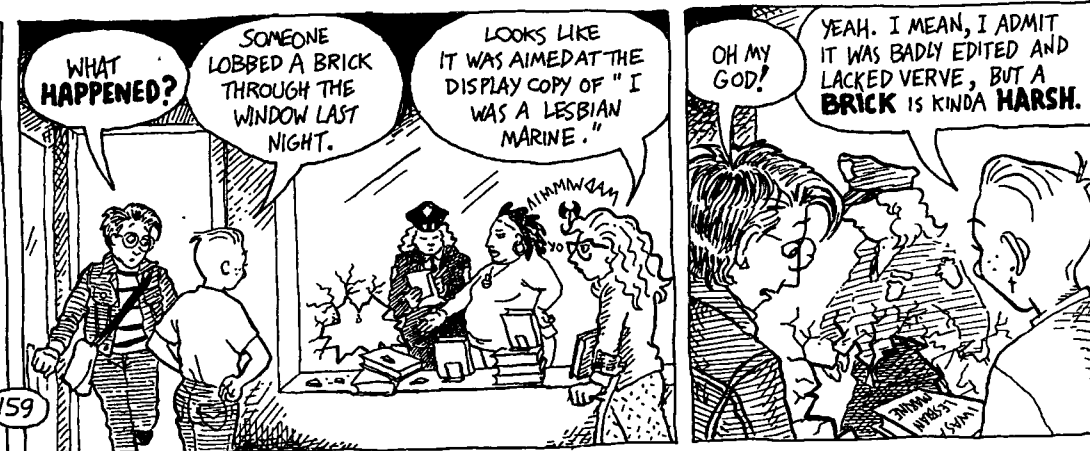
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NO ONE IN CLARICE & TONI'S BABY GROUP HAS HAD AN ACTUAL BABY YET, SO OUR MOTHERS-TO-BE ARE VISITING A MORE ESTABLISHED GATHERING IN SEARCH OF GUIDANCE AND INSPIRATION.



Through a Glass, Hardly

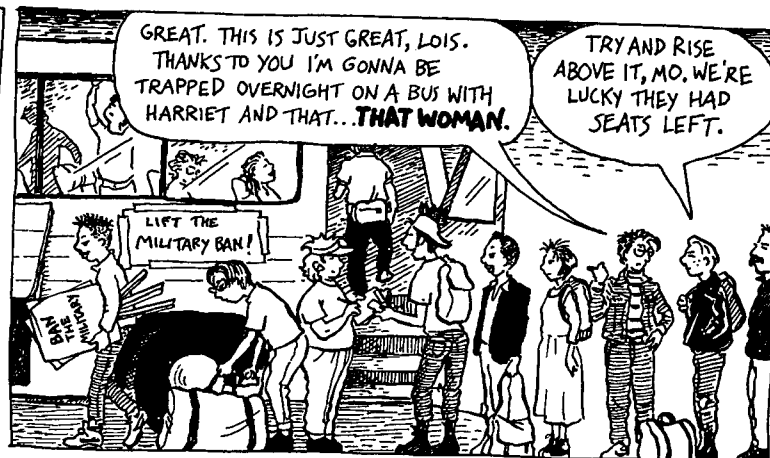
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ONE BIG HAPPY

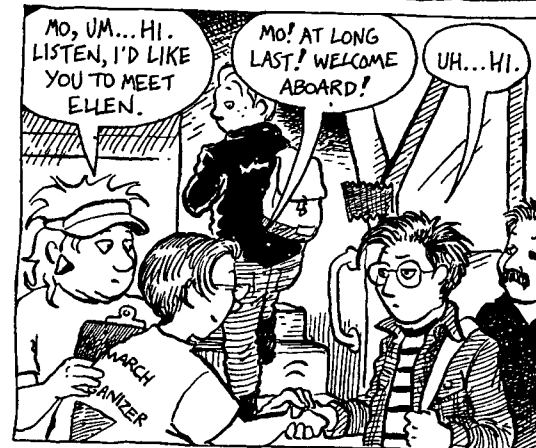
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DUE TO AN INOPPORTUNELY BLOWN OIL PAN GASKET, OUR GALS HAVE FORSAKEN LOIS'S AGED VW FOR A MORE PUBLIC MEANS OF TRANSPORT TO THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON.



GREAT. THIS IS JUST GREAT, LOIS. THANKS TO YOU I'M GONNA BE TRAPPED OVERNIGHT ON A BUS WITH HARRIET AND THAT... **THAT WOMAN.**

TRY AND RISE ABOVE IT, MO. WE'RE LUCKY THEY HAD SEATS LEFT.



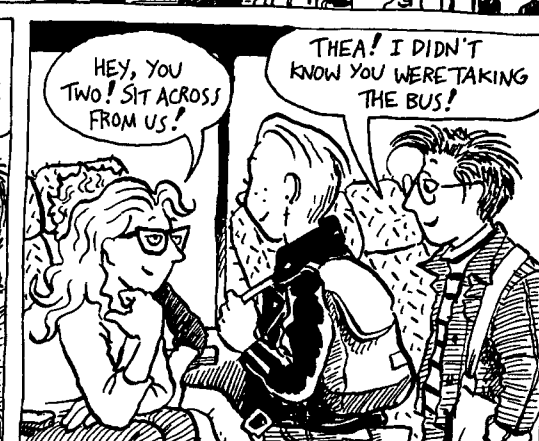
MO, UM...HI. LISTEN, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET ELLEN.

MO! AT LONG LAST! WELCOME ABOARD!

UH...HI.

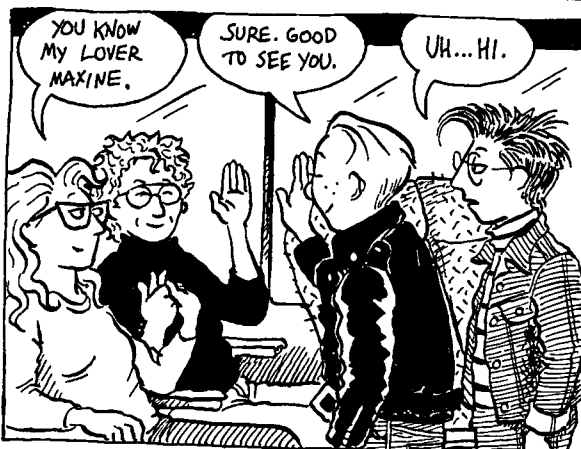


"WELCOME ABOARD." SHEESH! THE NERVE!



HEY, YOU TWO! SIT ACROSS FROM US!

THEA! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE TAKING THE BUS!



YOU KNOW MY LOVER MAXINE.

SURE. GOOD TO SEE YOU.

UH...HI.



I'LL LET YOU HAVE THE AISLE SO YOU CAN FLIRT WITH THEA AFTER OL' MAXINE NODS OFF.



HEY GIRLS, ANYONE SITTING HERE?

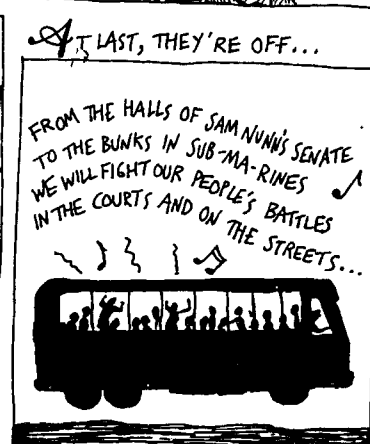
NAOMI! NO, I WAS SAVING THESE SEATS ESPECIALLY FOR YOU.



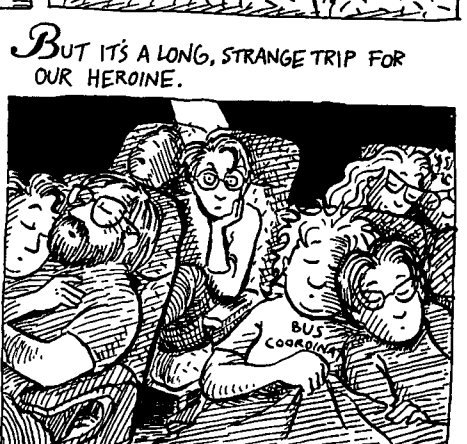
HI!

THIS IS MY LOVER DAVID.

NICE T'MEETCHA, DAVE. RICECAKE?



AT LAST, THEY'RE OFF... FROM THE HALLS OF SAM NUNN'S SENATE TO THE BUNKS IN SUB-MARINES WE WILL FIGHT OUR PEOPLE'S BATTLES IN THE COURTS AND ON THE STREETS...



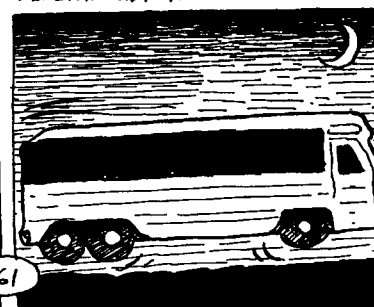
BUT IT'S A LONG, STRANGE TRIP FOR OUR HEROINE.

AFTER-GLOW



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A BUS FULL OF WEARY BUT EXHILARATED MARCHERS WENDS ITS WAY HOMEWARD FROM OUR NATION'S MOMENTARILY QUEER CAPITAL.



SO WHERE'D YOU END UP STAYING, MO?

ON THE FLOOR. WITH EIGHT OTHER PEOPLE AT MY COUSIN'S HOUSE IN THE BURBS. MY NECK IS DISLOCATED AND I HAVEN'T SLEPT IN SIXTY HOURS.



C'MERE. I'LL RUB YOUR NECK TILL MAXINE GETS BACK TO HER SEAT.

JEEZ, MO. WHO'D WANNA COME TO THE BABEFEST OF THE CENTURY AND **SLEEP?** I'M SO PUMPED ON ADRENALINE I DON'T THINK I'LL COME DOWN TILL NEXT WEEK.



DIDJA MAKE YOUR QUOTA, LOIS?

YUP. KISSED A WOMAN FROM EVERY STATE IN THE UNION. RHODE ISLAND WAS A DRAG QUEEN, THOUGH. DO YOU THINK THAT COUNTS?



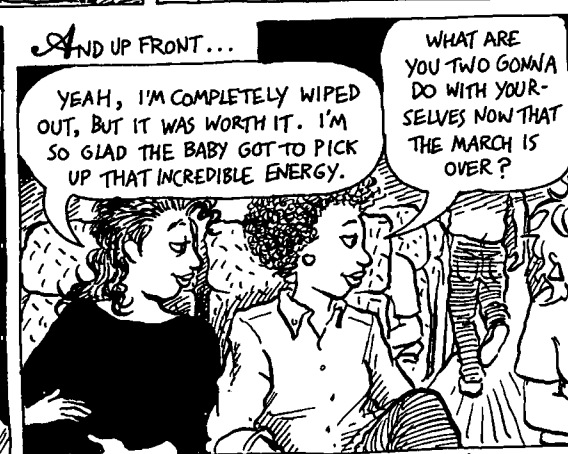
A FEW SEATS BACK...

GINGER, WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T LEAVE YOUR HOTEL? NOT EVEN FOR THE RALLY?



HEY, MALIKA AND I HADN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN MONTHS. WE JUST LOST TRACK OF TIME.

WOW. I HOPE SHE GOT SOME OF THAT ON VIDEO.



AND UP FRONT...

YEAH, I'M COMPLETELY WIPED OUT, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT. I'M SO GLAD THE BABY GOT TO PICK UP THAT INCREDIBLE ENERGY.

WHAT ARE YOU TWO GONNA DO WITH YOURSELVES NOW THAT THE MARCH IS OVER?



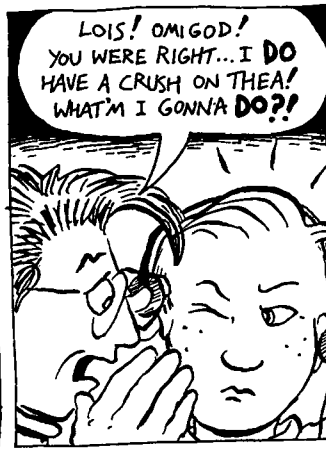
GOSH, I DUNNO. NO MORE LATE-NIGHT MEETINGS, NO MORE PHONES RINGING OFF THE HOOK, NO MORE FRENZIED LAST-MINUTE ORGANIZING...



WELL, AS SOON AS I GET THREE MONTHS' WORTH OF LAUNDRY DONE, I'M GONNA RUN FOR CITY COUNCIL.



THANKS. THAT WAS GREAT.



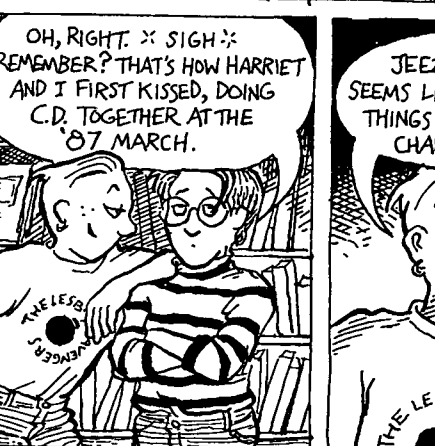
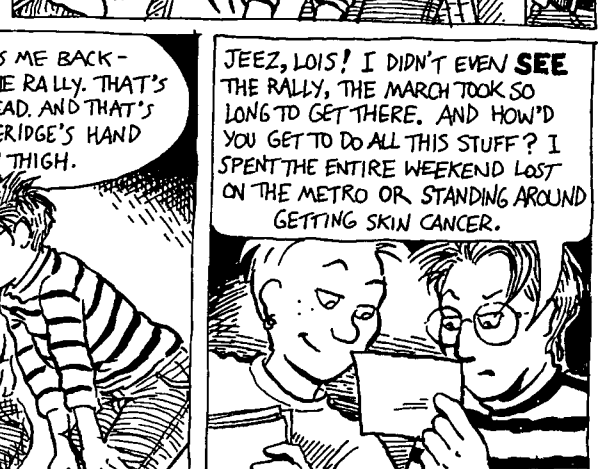
LOIS! OMIGOD! YOU WERE RIGHT... I DO HAVE A CRUSH ON THEA! WHAT'M I GONNA DO?!



LEMME SEE... A COLD SPONGE BATH IN THE LAVATORY SOUNDS ABOUT YOUR SPEED.

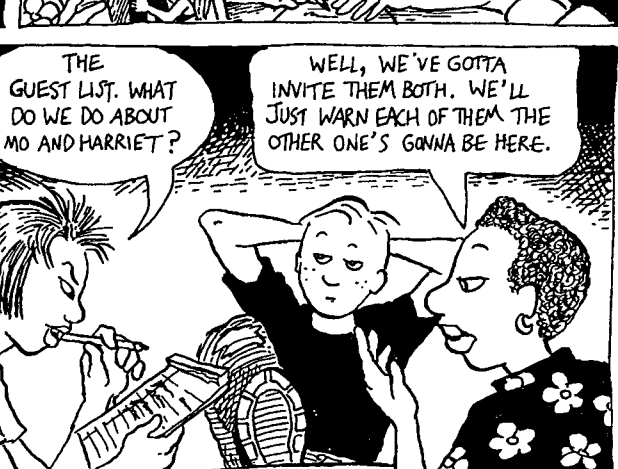
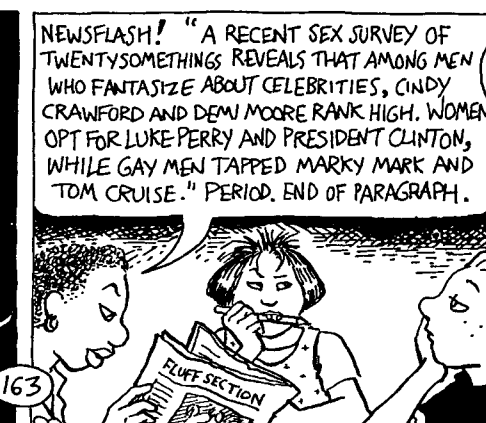
Apple Pie Order

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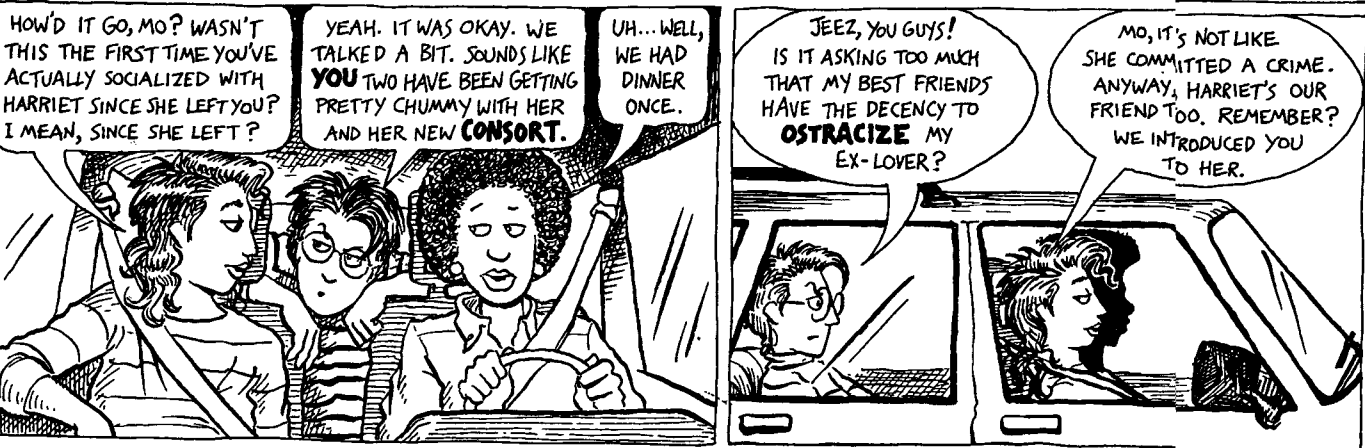
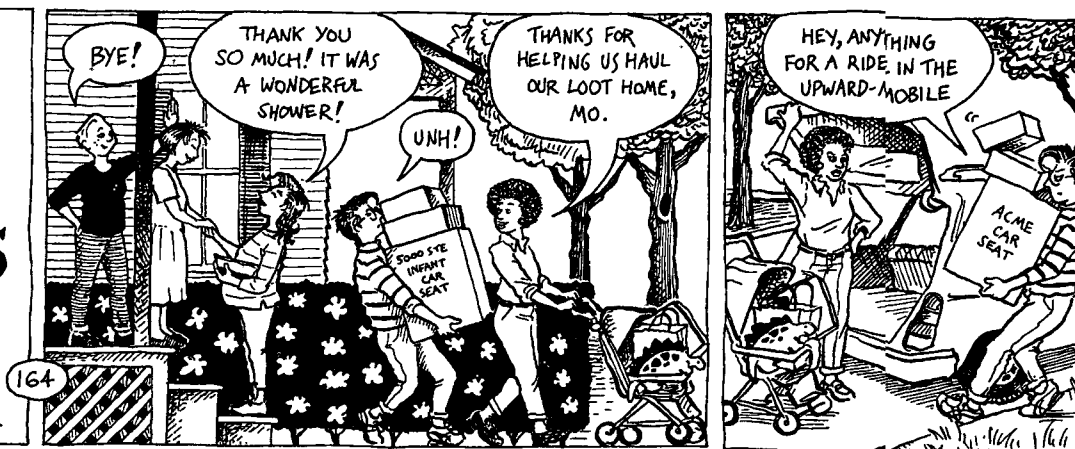
In Their Dreams

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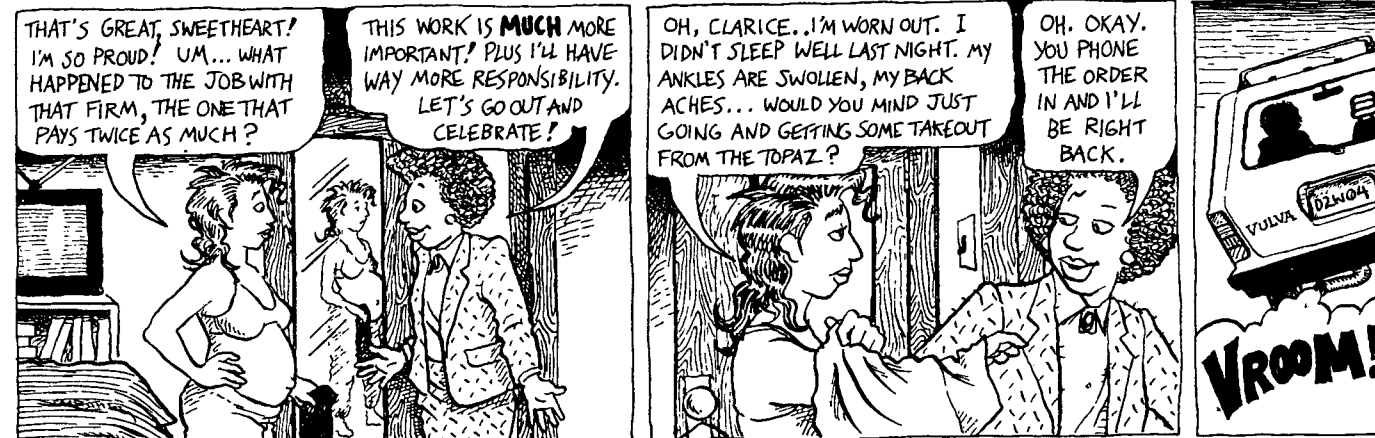
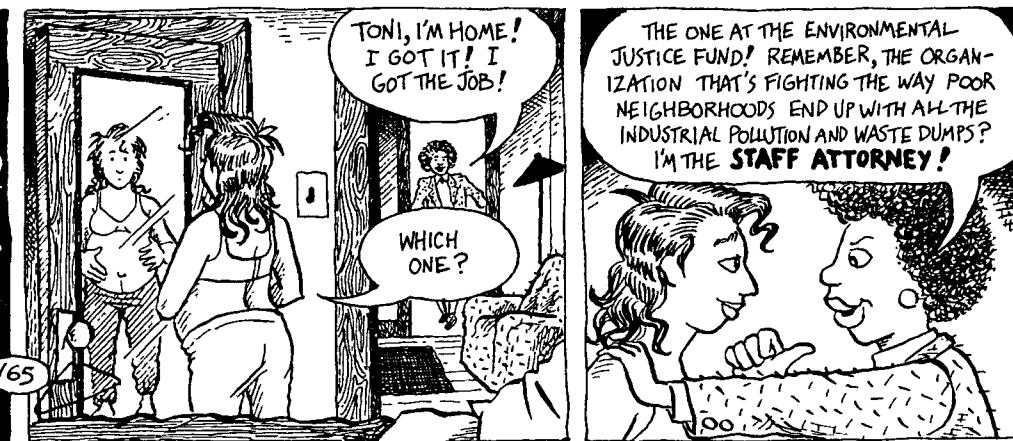
...and baby makes three

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Promises, Promises

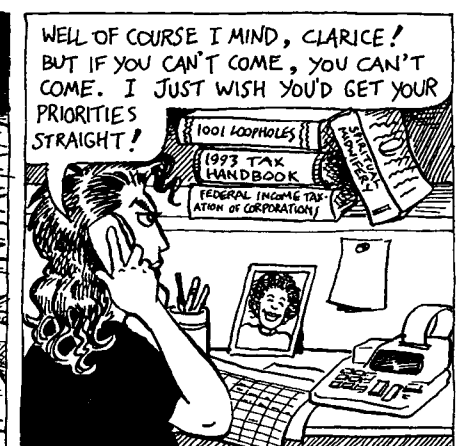
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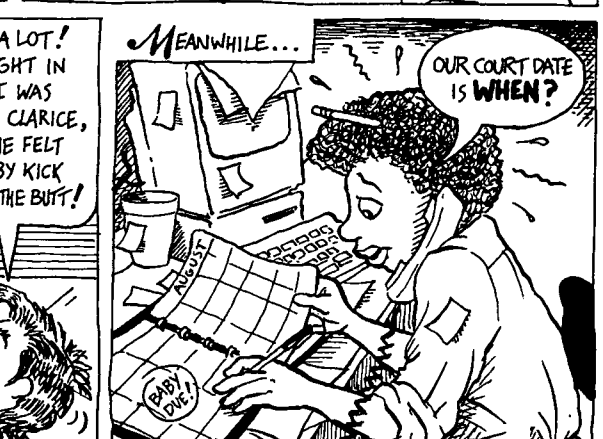
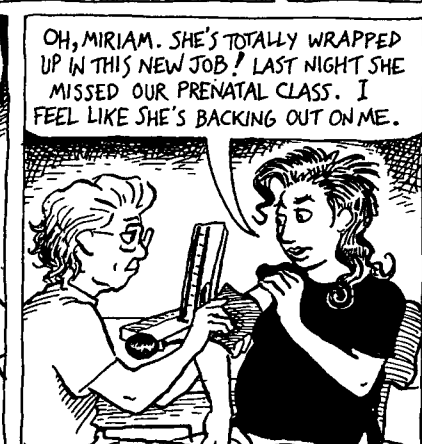
the fairies' midwife

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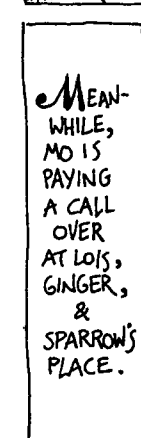


LATER, AT THE BIRTH CENTER...



one sultry summer evening

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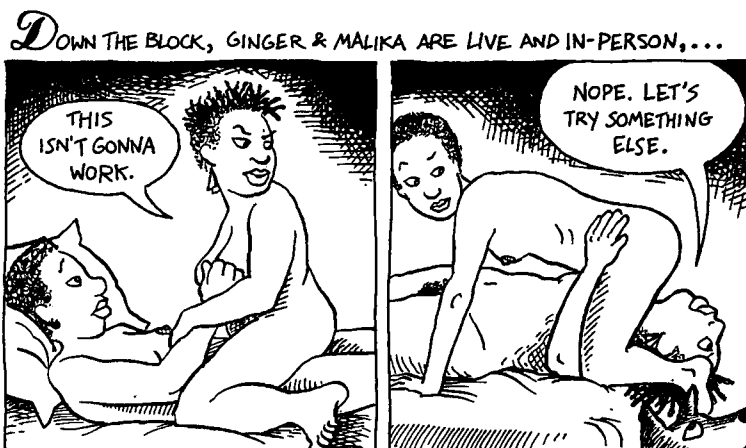
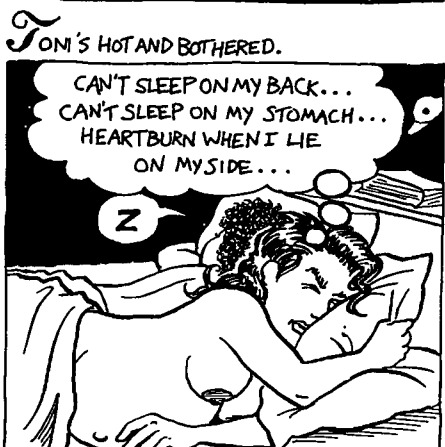
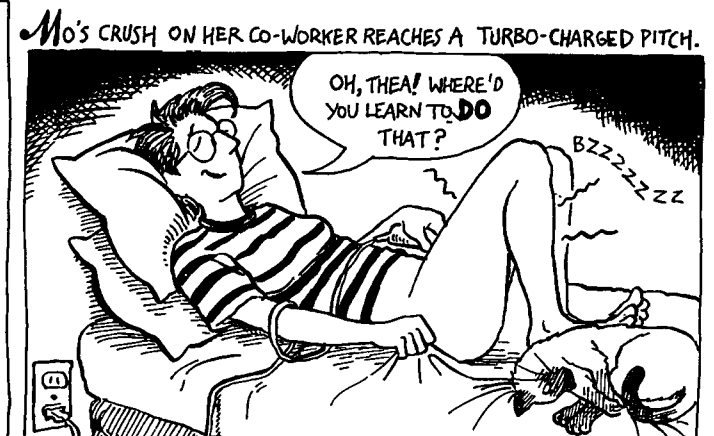


nocturne for Diverse instruments

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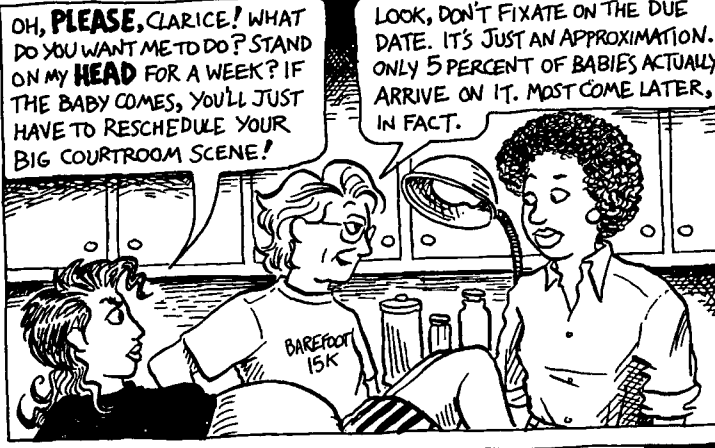
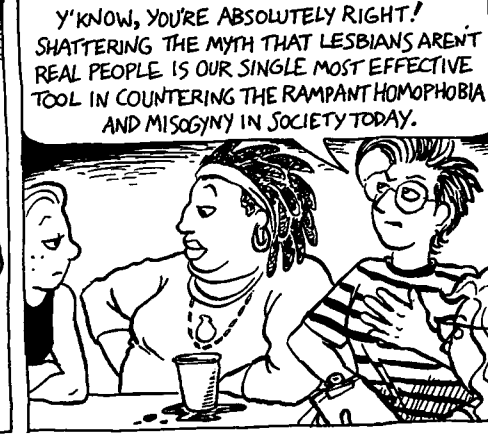
IS IT IN THE STARS? OR JUST SOMETHING IN THE WATER? WHATEVER,... ON THIS NIGHT OUR LUSTY LASSES' FANCIES TURN TO ACTS OF LOVE!



Crushed

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the Big Day

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Monday Morning...

ARE YOU SURE? MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL THE MIDWIFE! MAYBE I SHOULD STAY HOME!

CLARICE, IT WAS JUST ONE CONTRACTION TWO HOURS AGO! I'M NOT IN LABOR! WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU GETTING COLD FEET ABOUT GOING TO COURT TODAY?

GOD, BABE! I'M SO NERVOUS! D'YOU THINK I CAN DO IT?

YEAH. I DO.

OKAY, THEN, HERE I GO. AFTER ALL, I'M THE BREADWINNER NOW. GOTTA BRING HOME THE BACON. ANOTHER MOUTH TO FEED. FAMILY TO SUPPORT. ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?

I'M FINE! I'LL CALL YOU IF ANYTHING HAPPENS. NOW GET OUT OF HERE! I HAVE A MILLION THINGS TO DO TO GET READY.

I LOVE YOU SO MUCH.

KISS

MMMM. BYE.

CLIK!

WHOA!

THAT AFTERNOON AT THE CO-OP...

...98 CENTS A POUND.

MO! HI! WHAT'RE YOU UP TO?

HI, TONI! I'M JUST RUNNING ERRANDS ON MY DAY OFF. WOW, YOU ARE REALLY BIG! YOU LOOK READY TO BLOW!

OH, JEEZ! I'M SORRY! WHAT A STUPID THING TO SAY... I GUESS YOU'RE PROBABLY REALLY SICK OF COMMENTS LIKE THAT. HUH? HOW INSENSITIVE OF ME TO...

MO?

CAN YOU DO ME A FAVOR?

SURE, ANYTHING! WANT ME TO CARRY THIS STUFF TO YOUR CAR?

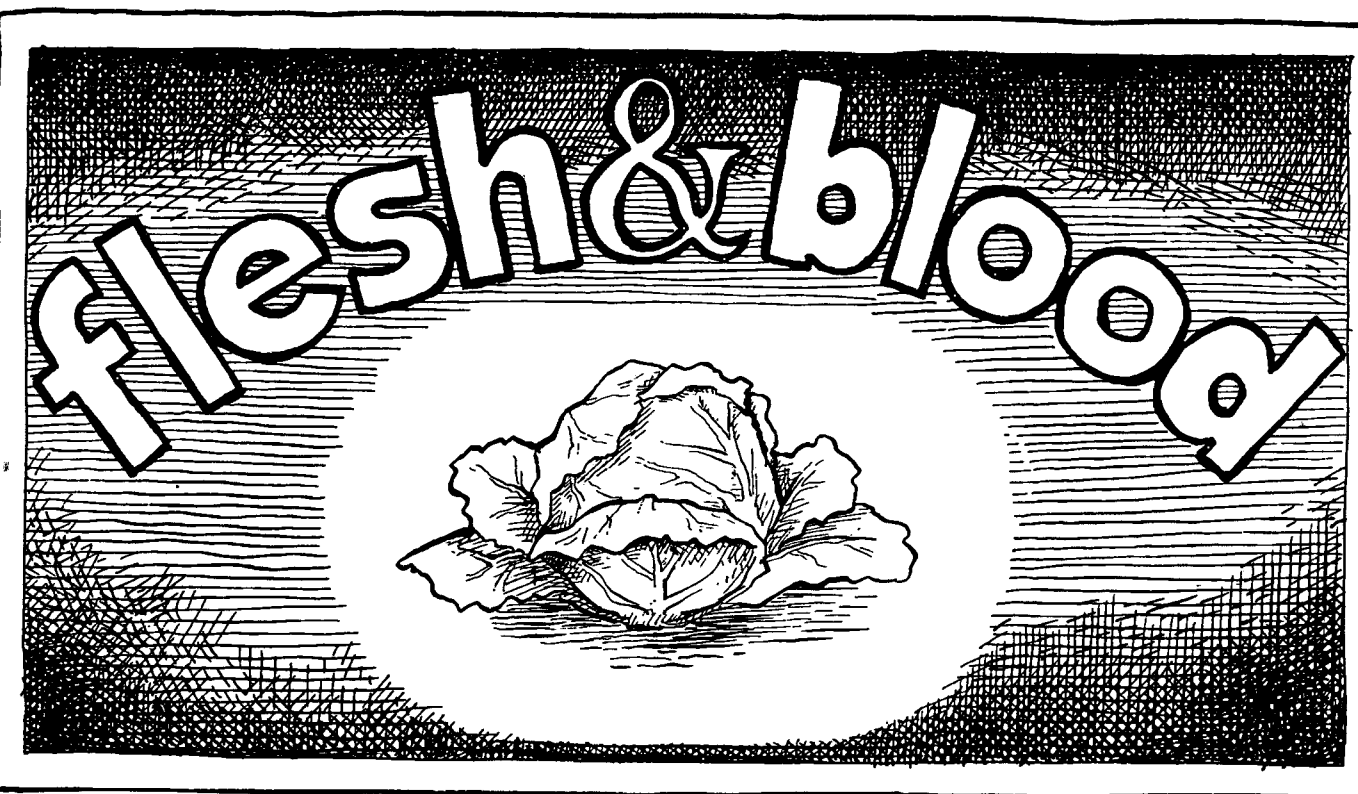
YEAH. AND THEN I'D LIKE YOU TO DRIVE ME HOME. I THINK I'M IN LABOR.

COOL.

HOLY SHIT! SHOULDN'T WE CALL AN AMBULANCE OR SOMETHING?

NAH. THAT'S JUST ON TV. THE BABY'S NOT COMING FOR A LONG LONG TIME. JUST RELAX, AND DRIVE CAREFULLY.

SQUEAL!



AFTER A HAIR-RAISING CROSS-TOWN JOURNEY, MO GETS TONI HOME SAFELY.



TAKE IT EASY, TONI!

MO, TRUST ME. THE BABY'S NOT GONNA DROP OUT ON THE DOORMAT. GO GET THE GROCERIES.

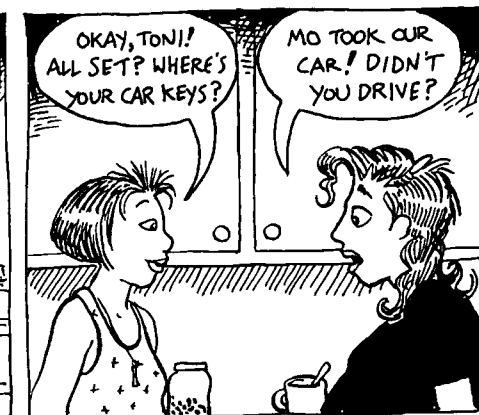
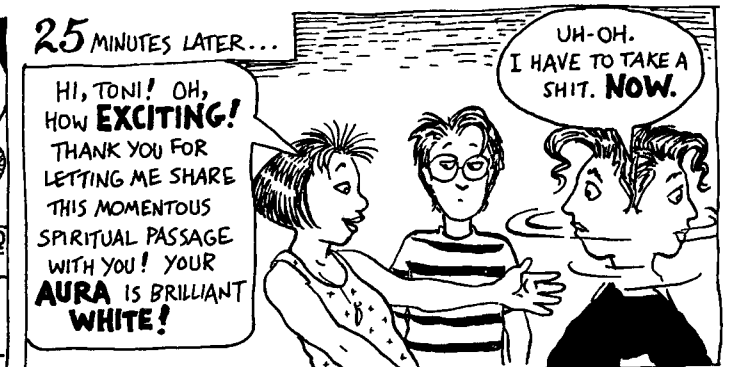
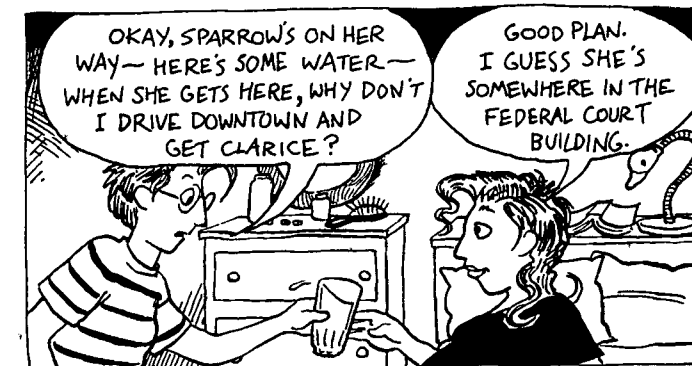
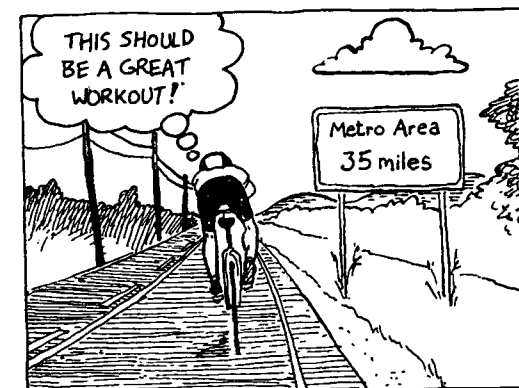
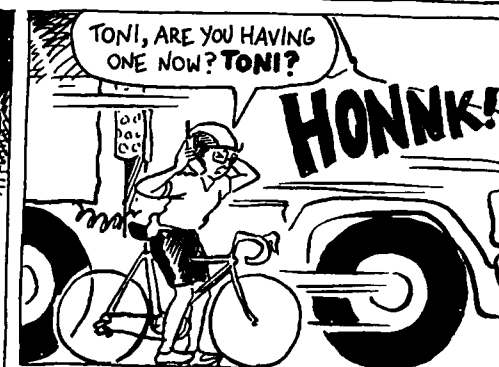
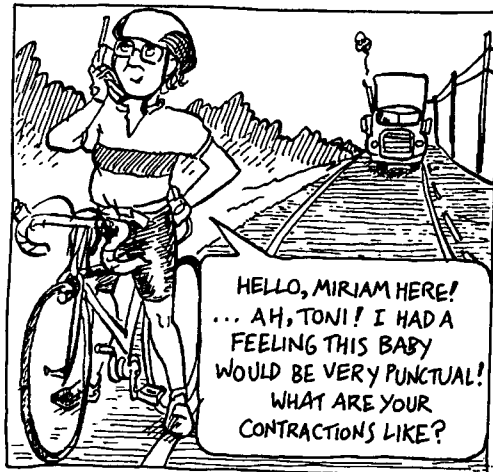
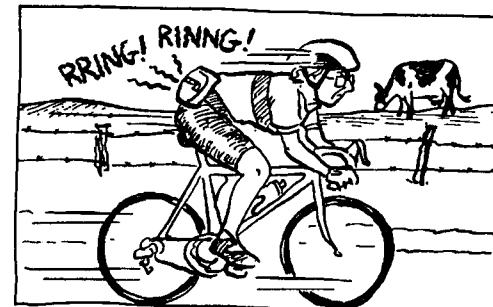
INSIDE...

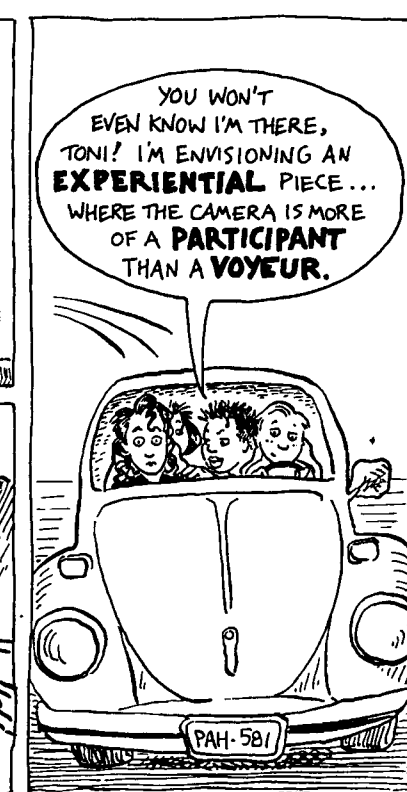
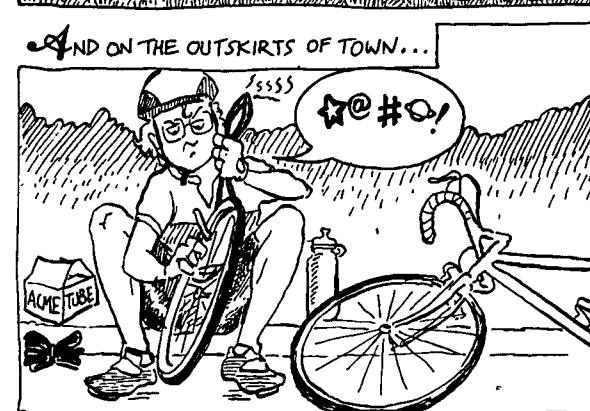
GOD, THIS IS SO EXCITING! WHAT DO WE DO NEXT? BOIL WATER?

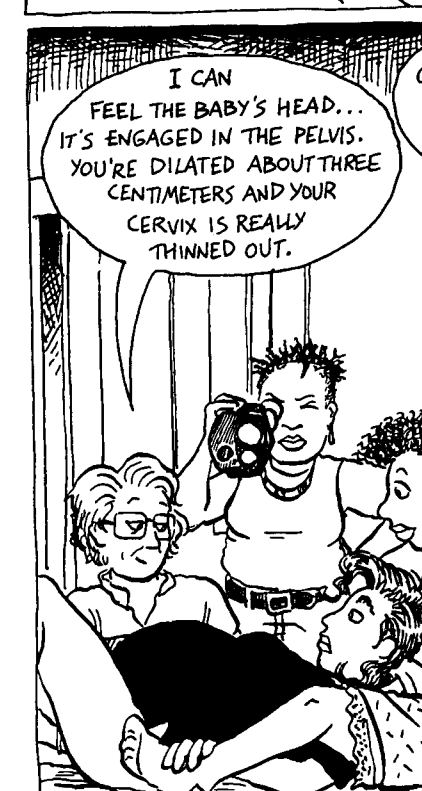
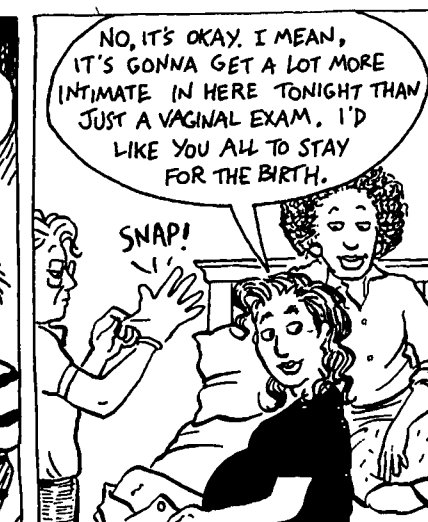
MO, DO YOU REALLY WANT TO HELP?

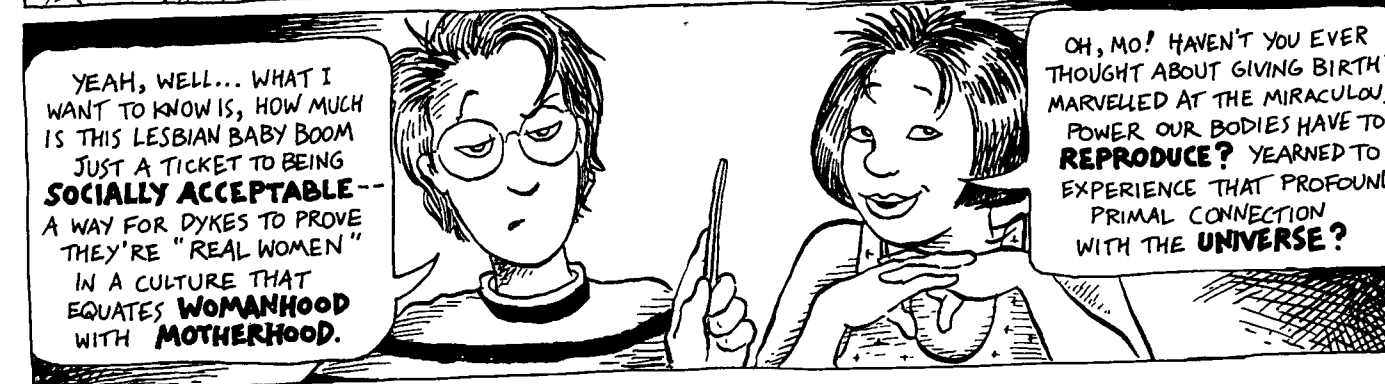
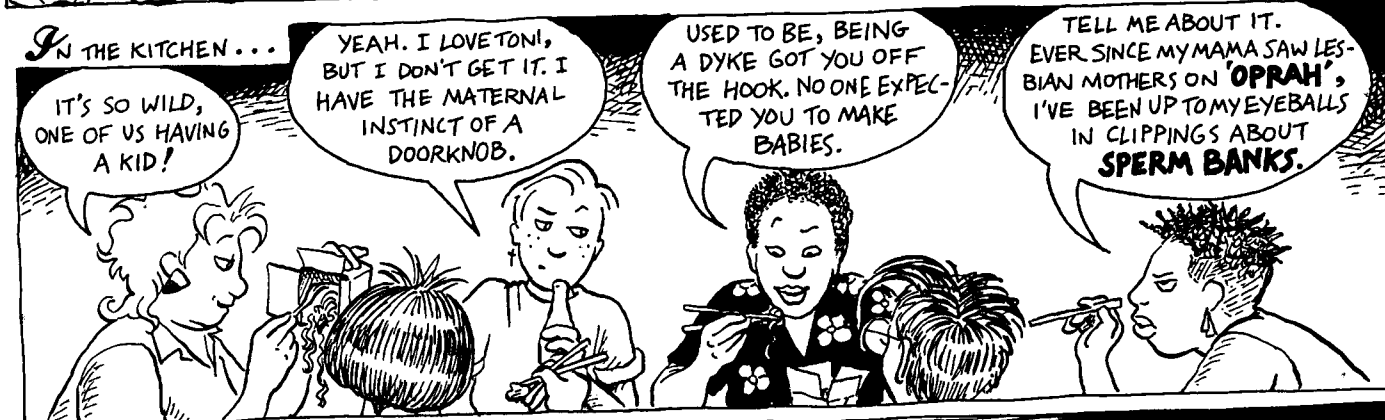
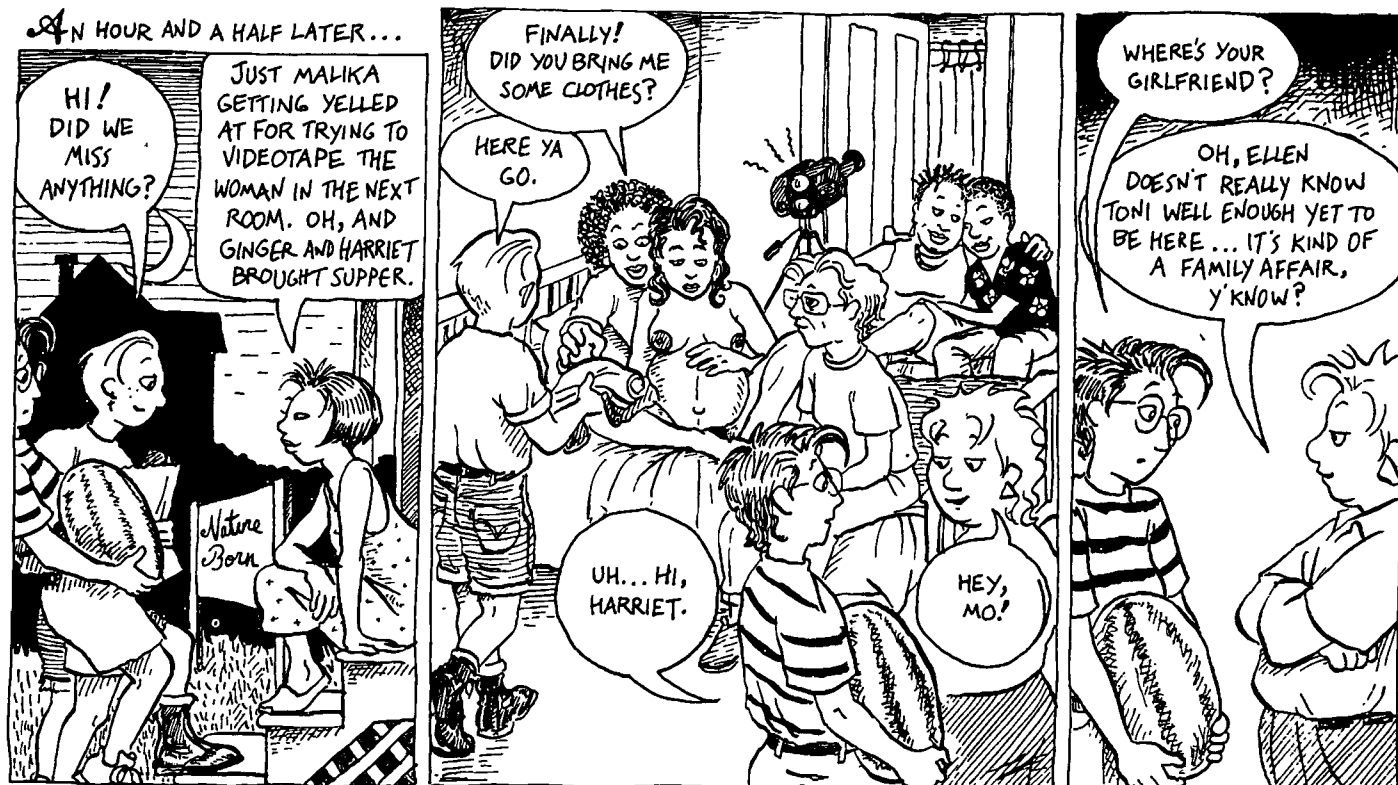
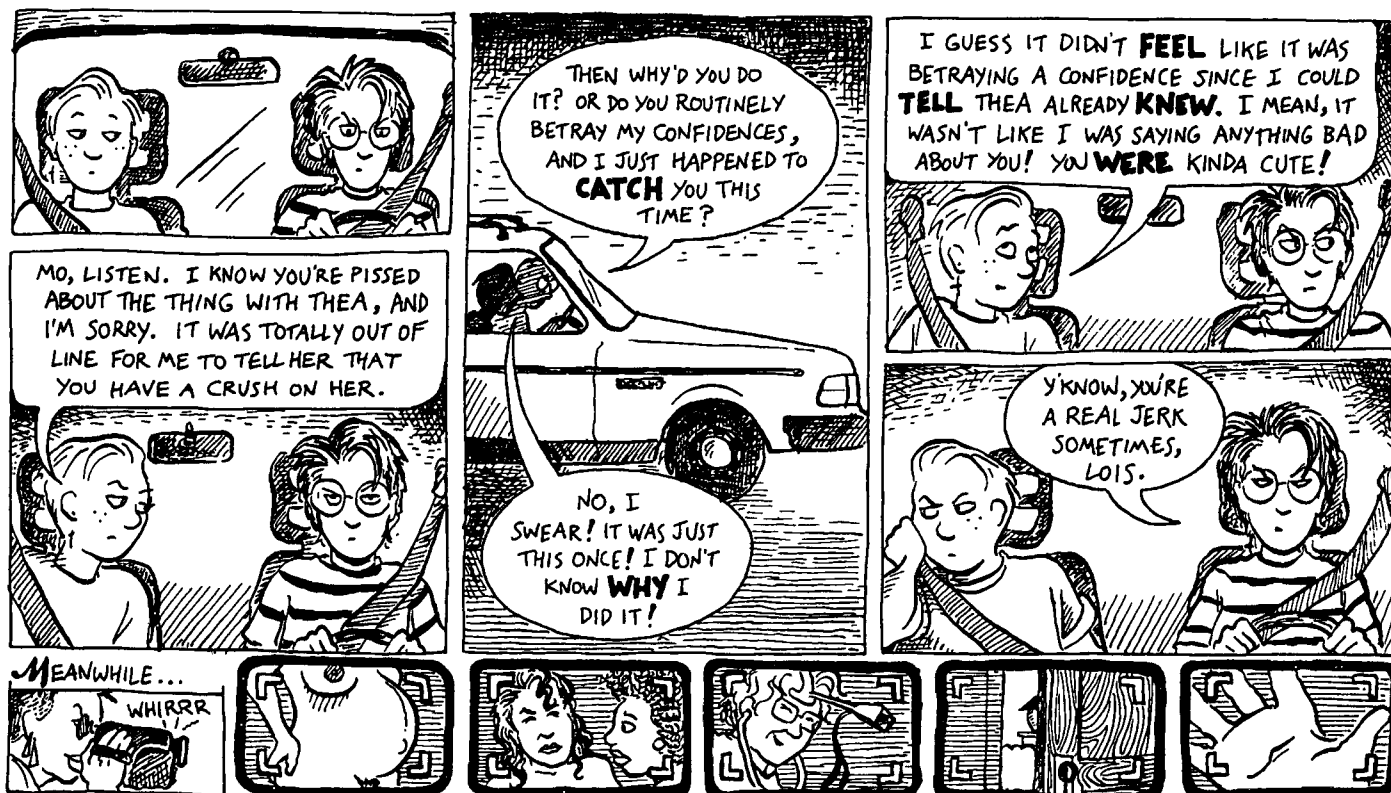
ABSOLUTELY, TONI! SAY THE WORD, I'LL DO ANYTHING!

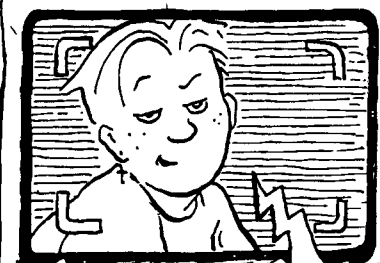
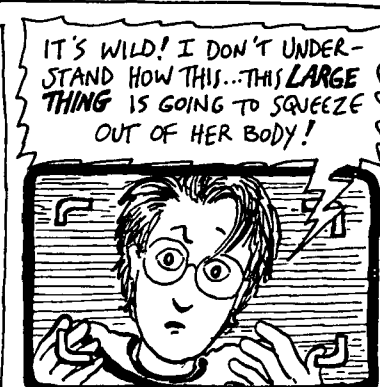
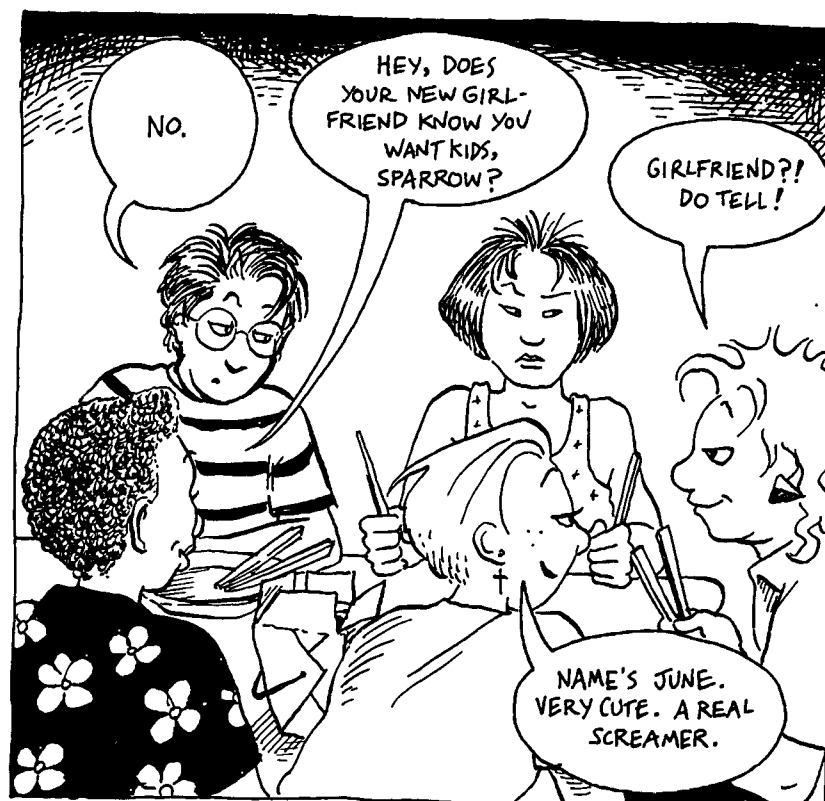
THEN CHILL OUT. YOU'RE DRIVING ME NUTS.







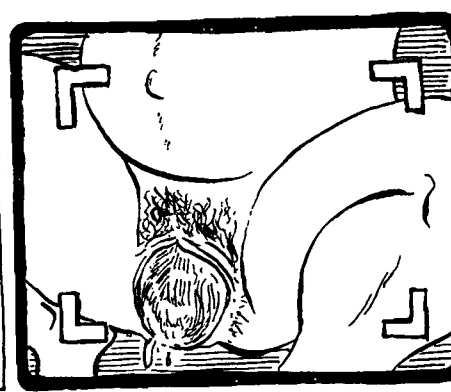




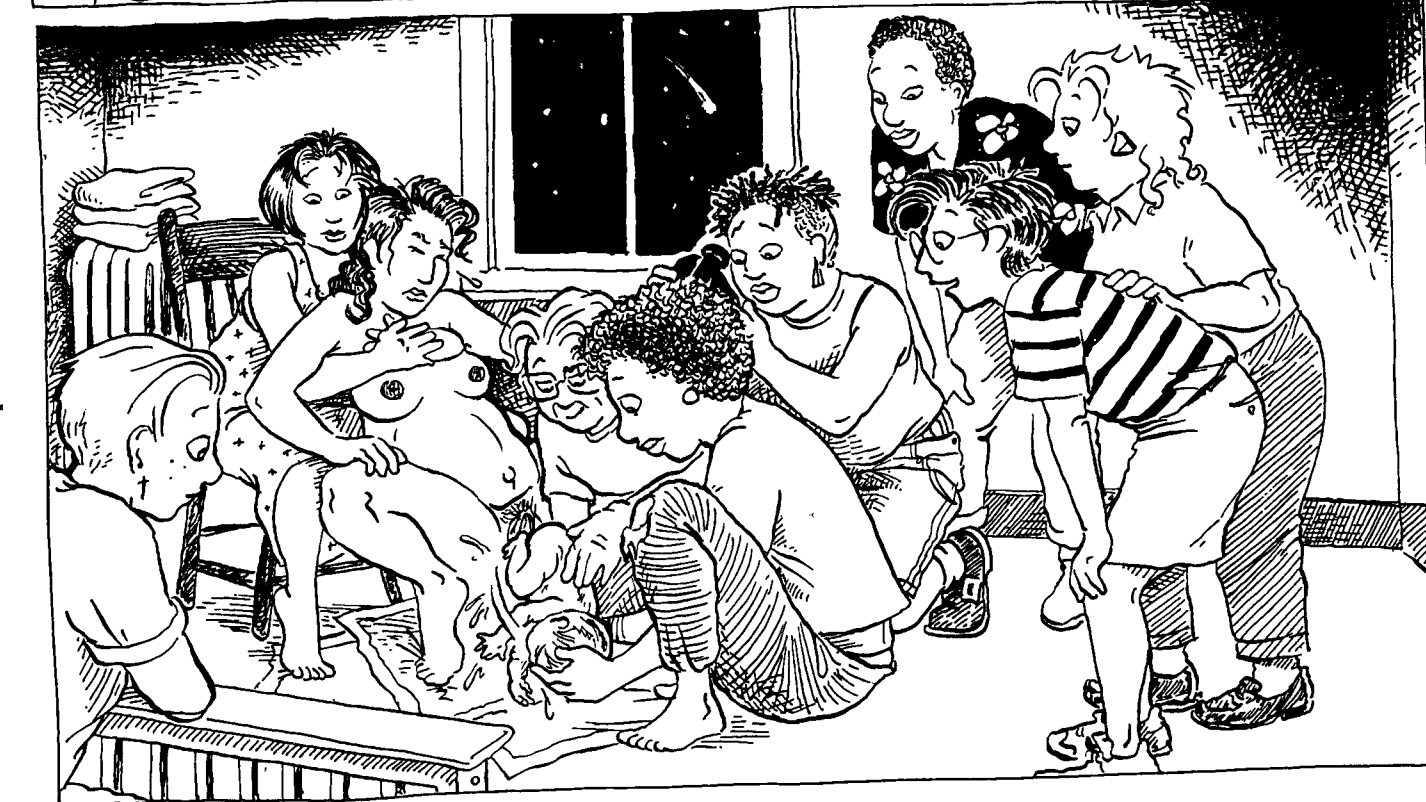


OH, BABY...
I WISH I COULD
HELP YOU! I WISH I
COULD FEEL THE
PAIN FOR YOU!

DID YOU KNOW THAT IN THE HUICHO
INDIAN TRADITION, THE FATHER
SQUATTED ON A PLATFORM ABOVE
THE WOMAN IN LABOR, WITH **ROPES**
TIED TO HIS BALLS? WHEN THE MOTHER
HAD A CONTRACTION, SHE YANKED THE
ROPES, SO THE GUY COULD SHARE
THE EXPERIENCE.



OKAY, TONI... NEXT
CONTRACTION JUST GIVE
A LITTLE PUSH.



BABY'S CROWNING!
THE BURNING MEANS
GO **SLOW** SO YOU DON'T
TEAR. I'M MASSAGING
YOU WITH OLIVE OIL TO
HELP YOU STRETCH.



CLARICE, IF YOU WANT TO CATCH
THE BABY, GET DOWN HERE. SPARROW,
WHY DON'T YOU PULL UP A CHAIR AND
SUPPORT TONI FROM BEHIND.



IT'S
RIGHT
HERE!

